

The Catholic **TIMES**

The Diocese of Columbus' Information Source

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Father Michael Lumpe, diocesan coordinator for hospital ministry, celebrated a Mass on July 13 commemorating the 50th anniversary of Mount Carmel East Hospital on Columbus' east side, Page 19



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Official announcement: Clergy assignments

The following clergy assignments in the Diocese of Columbus are effective on the dates listed:

Confirming the assignment from the Prior Provincial, Very Reverend Darren Pierre, OP of the Dominican Friars, **Reverend Peter John Cameron, OP**, from Prior, St. Patrick Priory, to service outside the diocese, effective August 4, 2022.

Confirming the appointment of the President of the Paulist Fathers, **Reverend Evan B. Cummings, CSP**, from service at St. Thomas More Newman Center, The Ohio State University, to service outside the diocese, effective July 31, 2022.

Confirming the assignment from the Prior Provincial, Very Reverend Darren Pierre, OP of the Dominican Friars, **Reverend Frassati Davis, OP**, from Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick Church, to service outside the diocese, effective immediately.

Confirming the appointment from the Prior Provincial of the Heralds of the Good News, **Reverend Jins Devasia**, from service outside the diocese, to Parochial Vicar St. John Neumann Church, Sunbury, effective July 26, 2022.

Confirming the appointment from the Provincial of the Mercedarian Fathers, **Reverend Michael Donovan, O. de. M.**, from in residence, Holy Family Church, Columbus, to Pastor, Holy Family Church, Columbus, effective July 12, 2022.

Confirming the assignment from the Prior Provincial, Very Reverend Darren Pierre, OP of the Dominican Friars, **Reverend Peter Fegan, OP**, from Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick Church, to Formation and Residence, Pontifical College Josephinum.

Reverend Thomas Gardner, to Pastor St. Peter Church, Millersburg and Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Glenmont, continuing as Pastor Sacred Heart Church, Coshocton and Priest Moderator, St. Francis de Sales Church, Newcomerstown, effective July 12, 2022.

Reverend Peter Gideon, Administrator, St. Joseph Church, Sugar Grove, continuing as pastor, St. Mark Church, Lancaster, effective July 12, 2022.

Reverend Michael Hartge, from Moderator of the Curia, to Canon Law Studies outside the Diocese, effective August 20, 2022.

Confirming the appointment of the President of the Paulist Fathers, **Reverend Yao Hsu, CSP**, from service at St. Thomas More Newman Center, The Ohio State University, to service outside the diocese, effective July 31, 2022.

Confirming the appointment from the Prior Provincial, Very Reverend Darren Pierre, OP of the Dominican Friars, **Reverend Paul Keller, OP**, from service outside the Diocese, to Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick Church, effective immediately.

Confirming the appointment from the Prior Provincial, Very Reverend Darren Pierre, OP of the Dominican Friars, **Reverend Mannes Matous, OP**, from service outside the Diocese, to residence, St. Patrick Priory with studies at The Ohio State University, effective August 6, 2022.

Confirming the appointment of the President of the Paulist Fathers, **Reverend Vincent McKiernan, CSP**, from service at St. Thomas More Newman Center, The Ohio State University, to service outside the diocese, effective July 31, 2022.

Confirming the appointment of the President of the Paulist Fathers, **Reverend Edward Nowak, CSP**, from Director, St. Thomas More Newman Center, The Ohio State University, to service outside the diocese, effective July 31, 2022.

Reverend Ramon Owera, excardinated from the Sons of the Immaculate Conception, incardinated into the Diocese of Columbus, effective June 1, 2022 and continuing as Administrator, Community of Holy Rosary/St. John Church and Pastor, St. Dominic Church, Columbus.

Confirming the assignment from the Prior Provincial, Very Reverend Darren Pierre, OP of the Dominican Friars, **Reverend Charles Shonk, OP**, from Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick Church, to service outside the diocese, effective immediately.

Reverend Adam Streitenberger, to Executive Director, St. Thomas More Newman Center at The Ohio State University, continuing as Director for Evangelization and Administrator, Sacred Heart Church, Columbus, effective July 12, 2022.

Confirming the appointment from the Prior Provincial of the Heralds of the Good News, **Reverend Anish Thomas**, from service outside the diocese, to Parochial Vicar Church of the Resurrection, New Albany, effective June 14, 2022.

Reverend James Walter, from Pastor, St. Joseph Church, Sugar Grove, to retirement, effective July 12, 2022.

DEACONS

Reverend Mr. Mickey Hawkins, from diaconal service St. Paul Church, Westerville, to retirement, effective July 31, 2022.

Reverend Mr. Charles Miller, from diaconal service St. John XXIII, Canal Winchester, to retirement, effective July 31, 2022.

Reverend Mr. Philip Paulucci, from diaconal service St. Peter Church, Columbus, to retirement, effective July 31, 2022.

Reverend Mr. Donald Poirier, from diaconal service at St. Brigid of Kildare Church, Dublin, to retirement, effective March 8, 2022.

Reverend Mr. Hector Raymond, from diaconal service St. Peter Church, Columbus, to retirement, effective July 1, 2022.

Reverend Mr. George Zimmermann, from diaconal service Holy Spirit and St. Phillip Churches, Columbus, to retirement, effective July 31, 2022.



Bishop Earl Fernandes speaks to residents at the Seton Square North housing facility in northwest Columbus during a blessing of a renovation project.

Photo courtesy Abigail Pitones

Bishop blesses renovations at senior facility

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

Bishop Earl Fernandes joined representatives of Catholic Social Services, the Diocese of Columbus and Borror property management for a tour of renovations taking place at the Seton Square North housing facility followed by a blessing on Thursday, July 21 in northwest Columbus.

Bishop Fernandes then traveled to Columbus' west side as part of a get-acquainted tour with Catholic Social Services to Our Lady of Guadalupe Center, a community center that assists central Ohio's growing Hispanic community.

Seton Square North, which was built in 1976 and located at 1776 Drew Ave., just north of Bethel Road, is one of 13 similar properties owned by the diocese that provide housing for residents age 62 and older or individuals with a qualifying disability.

The \$10 million renovation of the

See SETON, Page 3



Front Page photo:

SENIOR PRIESTS PLAY SUPPORTING ROLE

Father Stan Benecki celebrates a Saturday morning Mass at Gahanna St. Matthew Church on July 23. Senior priests who have retired from full-time ministry provide valuable assistance at parishes in the diocese.

CT photo by Ken Snow

Catholic TIMES

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SETON, *continued from Page 2*

250-unit, two-story neighborhood complex, which includes one- and two-bedroom apartments, began in May 2021 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2022. Current residents are relocated to other facilities on a temporary basis until their apartment renovations are completed.

“Many have generously contributed to this renovation, not hoarding their resources for themselves but being kind and generous to those in need, recognizing that God gave us all these things for our common use in our common home,” Bishop Fernandes said. “In a way, we are being stewards of the gifts that God has given us.”

Catholic Social Services provides service coordinators at Seton North, which includes a large Chinese-American population, who help residents maintain their independence and link them with needed resources.

Qualifying income limits are determined by the federal government. Residents with no or low monthly income pay a percentage of their income for rent and utilities.

“In providing affordable housing to the elderly and disabled, we are also demonstrating that the preferential option for the poor is not merely an idea,” Bishop Fernandes said. “It is a reality



Bishop Earl Fernandes offers words of encouragement and a blessing for residents and for the renovation project at the Seton Square North housing facility in northwest Columbus on Thursday, July 21. At right is Ellie Huang, a translator for the Chinese-American residents.
Photo courtesy Abigail Pitones

to be lived and is a special form of primacy in the exercise of Christian charity, to which the whole tradition of the Church bears witness.”

Borror manages the Seton properties,

and Msgr. Joseph Hendricks, pastor of Dublin St. Brigid of Kildare Church, serves as the president of the Seton Corporation and is the diocese’s representative for its senior housing facilities.

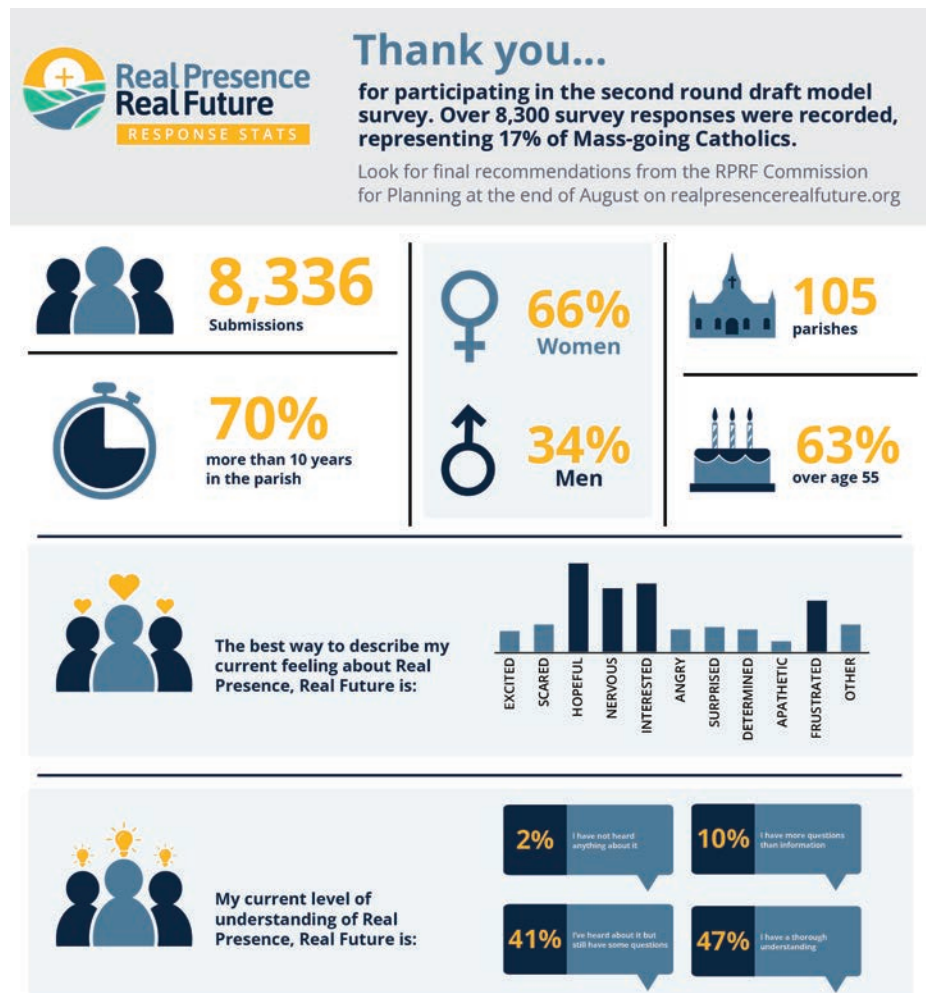
“Mother Teresa, beyond material poverty, also spoke of spiritual poverty and the poverty of loneliness,” Bishop Fernandes said. “Here in this place, the residents will experience God’s love, which often comes to us in and through the Church and in and through our neighbors. That is what we hope this dwelling place will be – a place for God’s love.”

Robert Whitner, 85, has lived at Seton North for 18 years. He is celebrating his 65th wedding anniversary in 2022 with wife Teresa, 84, who has moved to another assisted living facility but is able to come home to Seton North to be with him for 31 days a year.

He was one of two speakers introduced by Catholic Social Services CEO Rachel Lustig to express gratitude to be living at Seton North.

“When I look around at what’s going on in the world today in the way people are living, the cost of living and the amount of money we make compared to the amount that we have, we are so blessed,” he said. “They do a wonderful job of maintenance, and they’ve done a wonderful job with the renovations.

“And I love all the people, and I can’t say enough about the social workers. I love you all, and I thank you for what you’ve done for me and my wife.”



Diocese of Columbus: Journeying Together

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For a synodal Church
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The Summary Report of your voices from the Synod Listening Sessions is now online!

Read what participants from our diocese want to say to Pope Francis here:

Link: columbuscatholic.org/synod

Shield of faith protects us as we stand our ground

Last night a little one hopped onto my bed as I took a late-night phone meeting. She waited patiently because she needed to talk with me. Quietly she whispered that her heart was hurting and that she needed my help. I nodded, tucked her in close and continued my call, every so often tucking a stray piece of hair behind her ear.

When the call was finished, I gave my attention to her and listened as she shared an interaction she had with some children. Words had been said that aren't used in our home, and she was upset by it. Her sensitive heart is a treasure but needs a tender touch.

In some ways, I am grateful for these glimpses of the world we live in. It pains

me, but I am reminded of the importance of having one foot in heaven and one foot on earth to be that witness of love without judgment. Being a mother who believes firmly that every moment is a teachable moment, either in words or by example, I gathered my thoughts for a lesson.

Realizing that we live in a fallen world and that everyone has different standards, I first took out my devotional. That morning I had read about putting on a shield of faith. We talked about what shields can do, how they can protect us.

Shields also have an emblem on them or a coat of arms defining whom the user serves. A shield of faith can protect us from the attacks of the world against our identity as Christians. But first we must place some flags in the sand to mark where we stand.

I asked my little one if she had set her stan-

ALL THAT WE HAVE

MaryBeth Eberhard

MaryBeth Eberhard writes about marriage, life experiences of a large family and special needs. She attends Sunbury St. John Neumann Church.



dards. She knew our family's standards, but had she set her own? How do we decide who and what we allow into our lives? What were her absolutes? What do we do when something makes us uncomfortable? If someone is speaking poorly of someone? Is that a "stop" sign or a "proceed with caution"? What about bullying, language and impurity? We must be prepared to be met with these foes and have a ready response. We must teach these lessons from an early age and revisit and reinforce them as our children grow.

When they are young, I love the Scripture from Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you."

It is good to keep our focus on these things, to seek them in ourselves and in others.

It is in Ephesians where we hear St. Paul remind us that we are to "take up a shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." And oh, can he throw arrows!

My days are filled with arrows of temptation to sway from the task at hand. I am easily distracted. I can be short fused. I am often tired. The negative self-talk and the judgment of others to validate my own actions all seek to separate me from the peace and love that Christ is constantly offering.

I love parenting. I love the sanctity it offers. I love the parallels and reminders it gives me for my own life as I am reminded to revisit the very things that I am teaching my children. Where am I placing my stop signs of life? Do they need to be moved? Closer? Further? How am I coping with the flaming arrows being shot my way? Do I allow worry and stress to steal my joy, or do I stand firm in the knowledge of who I am and whose I am?

The lesson I am teaching to my daughter is to use that shield of faith given to her at her baptism, fortified by the sacraments, and guard her heart. Pray for those who throw arrows. Stand firm in what you know is good, true, beautiful and pure, but also form for yourself a heart of compassion and let the light of Christ within you shine so that others will be drawn to the heart of Jesus through you.

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Hiking alone with God

My husband, Al, and I recently took a trip to Montana for a friend's wedding. We made time to explore the bountiful beauty of the town of Big Sky and Yellowstone National Park along with some fly-fishing expeditions and plenty of relaxing with friends amid the backdrop of towering and gorgeous mountains in every direction.

We are both native Ohioans (flatlanders), so mountains move our hearts.

All of this was wonderful, but a highlight for me was an early afternoon hike up the mountain by our inn, all alone, with bear spray in hand. Bear sightings are common, and even occasional bear attacks, so I picked bear spray at the front desk to have peace of mind on my hike (and I made sure I knew how to use it.)

It felt amazing to hike up the mountain alone in the silence and majesty of nature. This was my prayer time that day, so I talked to God and paused to listen as much as I could.

The hike was straight up – no switchbacks on this trail – so it was challenging, and due to the altitude difference between Montana and Ohio and the heat of the day, I had to pause to rest often. That let take in the magnificence of my surroundings and to praise God for it.

I talked to God about having more appreciation for the little things and to not miss what He wanted me to see on this hike and in my daily life. The silence on the hike was a welcome respite with gentle interruptions by birds and the babbling brooks I crossed often.

It felt freeing to carry so little – only water and bear spray – and I thought of the disciples who were told to take nothing for the journey, “no extra tunic.” I also

HOLY AND HEALTHY

Lori Crock

Lori Crock is a SoulCore Rosary prayer and exercise leader and a St. Brendan parishioner. Lori is online at hollyandhealthycatholic.com, where she shares her passion for faith and fitness.



thought of Matthew Kelly's well-known phrase “care-free timelessness” and how blessed I felt to take off into nature with God in this way, without time constraints.

I paused to take in the wildflowers, give thanks that my waterproof boots were truly waterproof. I was thankful for the shade of the pines to rest, the amazing views down the mountain (a sweet reward), for the tree that lent me a walking stick and for the variety of wildflowers that painted the landscape.

I'd been listening to *Story of a Soul* by St. Therese of Lisieux on the Hallow app, and I was reminded that not every flower in the field can be a rose – how boring that would be – and the variety that God creates has a purpose in His divine plan.

St. Therese said, “I understood that every flower created by Him is beautiful, that the brilliance of the rose and the whiteness of the lily do not lessen the perfume of the violet or the sweet simplicity of the daisy. I understood that if all the lowly flowers wished to be roses, nature would no longer be enamored with lovely hues. And so it is in the world of souls, Our Lord's living garden.”

I gave thanks for the “Lord's living garden” – the many friends (some of whom are like family to us) who were with us in Montana and for those who

couldn't be with us. I asked God to bless and watch over each one of them by name and to bring them closer to Him.

There is sadness in my heart for those who do not currently know God, so I asked God to guide me in helping bring them to Him if that be His holy will. A friend passed into eternal life just before our trip, and I prayed for him and his family as they were preparing for his funeral.

I gave thanks to God that my physical body had the ability to hike and was reminded how good it felt to sweat and feel my leg muscles working after lots of sitting on airplanes. I was thankful for the gift of faith, to be alive here and now to witness the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* that will save so many precious lives, for a joyful heart and for the glorious mountain views.

I continued my conversation with God, basking in the landscape He created. I talked to Him about some new ministry work ahead and repeated, “Speak Lord, your servant is listening” as I tend to talk more than I listen, even though I know that listening is the most important part.

God responded in His gentle way, and I felt peace being with Him in this precious time. Being alone with Him was just what I needed after some very busy days. It felt much like how I feel when I leave the Adoration Chapel after a Holy Hour.

As rain clouds moved in, I turned back for the inn and made a mental note to pop a raincoat in my bag on the next hike as Montana weather changes in a minute. I made it home before the rain, and, thankfully, there were no bear sightings. I was filled up with God and ready to rejoin family and friends for more adventures, refreshed and renewed, from my hike alone with God.

A great nation begins to come to its senses

This past weekend in Houston, I had the opportunity to speak at a religious liberty conference about transgender issues, homosexuality and contraception. The conference happened to open on the same day that the *Dobbs* decision overturning *Roe vs. Wade* was released by the Supreme Court.

There was a noticeable “buzz” in the air because of the Court's decision. Whenever a speaker would mention the ruling, spontaneous applause would erupt from the audience. Young and middle-aged conference attendees, most of whom had grown up with *Roe vs. Wade*, couldn't recall a time in their lives when abortion-on-demand had not been legal in all states. There was a strong sentiment that because of the decision, we had reached a turning point as a society, with an onerous weight finally being lifted from the conscience of the nation.

Abortion-on-demand was the law of our land for nearly a half-century, ending the lives of more than 63 million vulnerable unborn humans. Because of judicial brute force for five decades, the moral sense and reasoning ability of many citizens was weakened, with many Americans growing accustomed to the ongoing practice. A number of other nations also legalized abortion, following our troublesome lead.

This historic reversal by the Supreme Court has myriad implications. People are stirring again and beginning to ponder their longstanding complacency. Many are starting to ask how a country professing “liberty and justice for all” could enshrine killing on such a colossal scale. Other nations are re-examining their policies. The jolt from the court's decision is also prompting questions about the enormous sums of American taxpayer money that have been funneled into the coffers of the abortion industry. We stand at a

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

Father Tad Pacholczyk

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, PhD, earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did postdoctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts, and serves as director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.



pivotal moment, a moment of reawakening, dialogue, conversion and renewal.

This historic *Dobbs* decision has also sent shock waves through the abortion industry as it suddenly realizes that its profitable enterprise of death is facing an existential threat in many states. Its forces are certain to intensify the relentless misinformation campaigns that have misled people for decades, relying on support from corporate America, Hollywood, and the media. Those same forces have already shown that they will not hesitate to gin up noisy, and sometimes violent, protests around the country.

With the Court's decision, a first and important first step has taken place. What *Dobbs* did, as noted on the first page of the decision, was to leave abortion policy “to the people and their elected representatives.”

Now that the Court has assumed a neutral position on the issue, and state or federal legislatures can enact measures to protect moms and their unborn children at any stage of pregnancy, the door has finally been opened to protect human life by revamping and strengthening state and local laws.

As new legal initiatives made possible by *Dobbs* begin appearing on state legislative dockets, Americans will have an opportunity to mount a full court press

to bring abortion to an end in their home states. Bold legislators, courageous governors and informed voters will need to work together.

Steven Mosher of the Population Research Institute offers some helpful recommendations:

“In states that do not yet ban abortion, we must work with pro-life state legislators to protect all human lives. Where a complete ban is not possible, we must advocate for Heartbeat legislation that will prevent all abortions after six weeks, understanding that this is only a way station on the way to a complete ban. ... At the local level, talk to your city councilman or county supervisor about making the place where you live a sanctuary for the unborn. Outlawing abortion within city or county limits is possible even in hostile states like New York or California if you happen to live in the more socially conservative parts of these states. Even closer to home, support your local crisis pregnancy centers, whose services will now be more in demand than ever before from young women who have nowhere else to turn. ... Volunteer if you can, donate if you can't.”

The years of dedicated work that have gone into educating people about the harsh realities surrounding abortion, setting up crisis pregnancy centers, drafting pro-life legislation and electing pro-life candidates has created critical momentum for definitively enacting pro-life laws and securing the human rights of unborn children around the country, state-by-state, instead of having such initiatives almost continually enjoined by courts. We should all have a renewed sense of hope and determination as a great nation once again comes to its senses in the face of abortion's longstanding injustice and violence.

Saint Brendan FESTIVAL

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Appalachian Project returns to serve needy in Scioto County

By Anne Jupinko

For two years, the Appalachian Project, sponsored by Columbus Christ the King and St. Catharine of Siena parishes, was at a standstill because of COVID-19. So it was with great joy that a group, smaller by design, returned in June for the 27th year to serve families in need in Scioto County.

It was a cautious return to our mission of providing home repairs wrapped in prayer and hard work and inspired by the social teachings of the Church. The team members numbered 30 instead of 50, and all youth were over age 18 and had been former participants.

Six worksites were selected, and all tasks were successfully completed June 26-July 2. Some people on the west side of Scioto County had waited two years for our return. We are well known for the quality of our work, which is funded by donations.

This year, the group was warmly welcomed by Father Brian Beal, pastor of the Scioto County Consortium of churches. Father Patrick Watikha, parochial vicar for the consortium, celebrated Mass for the group at Pond Creek Holy Trinity Church.

Days were interspersed with work and prayer, and evenings brought planned activities and reflections on the purpose and meaning of the mission. The Appalachian Project provides an experience of service, interdependence and participation in the social mission of the Church as we promote discipleship and evangelization.

This year's team members repeatedly expressed that they were thrilled to be back, that they enjoy a sense of community together and getting to know the residents whose homes are being repaired.

Brianna Mattox, a 2020 graduate of Columbus Bishop Hartley High School, said she enjoyed most getting a lot done in a short amount of time. She also liked talking to her host family every day, comparing their lives with hers.

Eli Kaltenecker, a St. Catharine parishioner and graduate of Columbus St. Charles Preparatory School, helped



A new deck and steps were provided for a home in western Scioto County by volunteers (from left) Jim Schafhausen, Jeff Gardner, Hudson Ozello, Madison Schafhausen and Corey Claprood. Photo courtesy Anne Jupinko

paint two roofs and install drywall and flooring in a home that needed much work. "I have spread God's good news through giving the gift of home improvement," he said. "I've learned that the people of Appalachia are tough and persistent; not much can throw them off course."

Joseph Beckett, a recent graduate of the University of Dayton whose home is in Scioto County, commented, "I learned just how important even small acts of service can mean to someone in need. We evangelize by actualizing our prayer in works of service."

Corey Claprood, a 2018 graduate of Groveport Madison High School, said, "I was looking forward to just coming down as a group. It was tough the last two years we had taken off, and I had not realized how much I missed going. I missed everyone associated with this project, whether it's the fellow members or the people we come down to help."

For those like Claprood and the others who echoed his desire to be a part of the project in the future, we hope that next year we can once again invite high school and college age youth. They will experience the work where adults teach new skills. They will also experience the loving sense of community, the presence of God and the interaction among team members and those served.

Anne Jupinko is the Appalachian Project coordinator at Columbus Christ the King Church.

Catholics must unequivocally stand for life, follow Church's guidance

A recent poll conducted by EWTN News/RealClear Opinion Research indicated that only 9% of U.S. Catholics believe the Church's teaching that abortion is a grave evil and never acceptable at any stage.

Nearly 1 in 5 Catholics said, according to the poll conducted in June, that a woman should be able to have an abortion any time during her pregnancy up until birth.

Think about that for a moment. That means 18% of Catholic respondents said it's OK to abort a child in the final days of pregnancy at a time when the baby is fully developed.

Is it any wonder that there's ambivalence toward abortion and human life in this country and in the Catholic Church?

Before we go further, let's state upfront that this issue goes way beyond politics. We're talking about the fundamental principle of right to life for all humans, born and unborn. At the same time, there's legitimate concern about the souls of the adults who make decisions that do not protect this basic right.

That said, we can't ignore the fact that prominent individuals who profess to be Catholic in the public square have carried their extremist abortion support to a level that the Church should no longer tolerate.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued two strongly worded statements this month. The first came in response to an executive order signed by President Joe Biden on abortion. The second followed the Women's Health Protection Act, a bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives that would allow abortion on demand throughout pregnancy in all states and wipe out pro-life laws at all levels of government.

EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

Doug Bean



Baltimore Archbishop William Lori, the president of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said the following after the executive order was signed:

"In response to the Dobbs decision, I called for the healing of wounds and repairing of social divisions, for reasoned reflection and civil dialogue, and for coming together to build a society and economy that supports marriages and families, and where every woman has the support and resources she needs to bring her child into this world in love.

"And as religious leaders, we pledged ourselves to continue our service to God's great plan of love for the human person, and to work with our fellow citizens to fulfill America's promise to guarantee the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all people.

"It is deeply disturbing and tragic that President Biden is choosing instead to use his power as President of the United States to promote and facilitate abortion in our country, seeking every possible avenue to deny unborn children their most basic human and civil right, the right to life. Rather than using the power of the executive branch to increase support and care to mothers and babies, the president's executive order seeks only to facilitate the destruction of defenseless, voiceless human beings.

"I implore the president to abandon this path that leads to death and destruction and to choose life. As always, the Catholic Church stands ready to work with

this Administration and all elected officials to protect the right to life of every human being and to ensure that pregnant and parenting mothers are fully supported in the care of their children before and after birth."

Then, after the House passed the Women's Health Protection Act on July 8 that would make abortion legal throughout the country to counteract the U.S. Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade* in June, Archbishop Lori and Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, chairman of the USCCB's Committee for Religious Liberty, said in a statement:

"The majority in the House of Representatives voted last Friday to pass the most unjust and extreme abortion on demand bill our nation has ever seen. Answering the needs of women by promoting taxpayer-funded elective abortion, as this bill would do, is a grave evil and a failure to love and serve women. Offering free or low-cost abortions, instead of increasing the resources women need to care for themselves and their children, is not 'choice' but coercion and callous abandonment. Simply repeating the mantra that abortion is healthcare doesn't make it so. Deliberately ending the lives of defenseless and voiceless human beings is the antithesis of healthcare.

"We implore those who see abortion as a legitimate 'solution' to the needs of women to abandon this path of death and despair. Instead, we invite all to join us in pursuing a vision we presented in *Standing with Moms in Need*, a vision that upholds the truth that every human life is sacred and inviolable – a society in

See REFLECTIONS, Page 8

Another assault on John Paul II

On May 13, 1981, Pope John Paul II had lunch in the papal apartment with Dr. Jerome Lejeune, the renowned French pediatrician and geneticist who identified the chromosomal abnormality that causes Down syndrome.

Dr. Lejeune was a prominent pro-life advocate and the two men discussed initiatives the Vatican might take to advance the cause of life through a sound moral theology informed by the best of modern science, and through public policies supportive of a culture of life. It's not hard to imagine that John Paul and Dr. Lejeune also discussed what the Pope would describe in the 1995 encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* as a corrosive "culture of death." The irony, of course, was that, a few hours after that lunch, one form of the culture of death asserted itself when Mehmet Ali Agca shot John Paul II in the Pope's front yard, St. Peter's Square.

That lunchtime conversation between two men of genius influenced the creation of two new institutions in Rome: The John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family, centered at the Pontifical Lateran University, and the Pontifical Academy of Life. The Academy was to be an in-house Vatican think-tank, in which men and women of good will from all over the world could work together to build cultures capable of cherishing life, especially the lives of the weakest and most vulnerable. The Institute, for its part, was intended to be a high-octane intellectual center for the renewal of Catholic moral theology in the 21st century and third millennium. Both initiatives were special gifts of John Paul II to the universal Church.

The John Paul II Institute flourished for three decades, training a generation of theologians dedicated to re-grounding Catholic moral theology in a sound

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

George Weigel

George Weigel is the Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.



and contemporary philosophical concept of the human person, while re-centering Catholic moral reflection on the virtues and the Beatitudes (the Magna Carta of the Catholic moral life). The Rome-based institute quickly spun off affiliate institutes around the world, the most formidable of which would be based in Washington, D.C. To visit any of these academic centers was to enter a world of great theological adventure, full of men and women apostolically committed to converting the cultures in which they lived.

All of this caused consternation within the dominant Catholic theological guilds of the time, caught as they were in the quicksand pits of a Sixties-based concept of moral theology in which there are no moral absolutes, nothing is always evil and the moral life is considered an ongoing negotiation involving fluctuating ethical norms, society and the individual conscience. It need not be doubted that this anorexic theological project was heavily influenced by the sexual revolution. And it is not too harsh to suggest that "proportionality" (as this negotiation-model of the moral life came to be called) evolved into a form of surrender to that cultural tsunami.

The guilds are now having their revenge. In 2021, the Pontifical Academy of Life sponsored

a conference whose proceedings have now been released by the Vatican Publishing House under the title *Theological Ethics and Life: Scripture, Tradition, and Practical Challenges*. The book proposes nothing less a radical change in the way the Church teaches about the moral life: a "paradigm shift," as one author put it, that would enshrine proportionality (and its refusal to admit that some things are simply wrong, period) as the Church's official method of moral reasoning. To do so would, of course, mean repudiating the teaching of Pope St. Paul VI in the 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, and the teaching of Pope St. John Paul II in the 1993 encyclical *Veritatis Splendor* and the aforementioned *Evangelium Vitae*. Discussions of such a repudiation have not been lacking in recent years, however, at the reconstituted John Paul II Institute in Rome (a husk of its former self) and at Rome's Jesuit-run Pontifical Gregorian University.

In their distinctive ways, *Humanae Vitae*, *Veritatis Splendor* and *Evangelium Vitae* all rejected proportionality as contrary to the Gospel and to a truly humane understanding of the moral life. All three encyclicals caused the dominant theological guilds in the West to writhe with contempt and seethe with fury. And according to recent media reports, those guilds are now pressing for a new papal encyclical: one that would take the Church into the promised land of moral "discernment," which lies "beyond" what proportionality guild-speak now caricatures as John Paul II's "black-and-white morality," "rigorism," and "fundamentalism."

Surely one assassination attempt against the Pope whose teaching and example animate the living parts of the world Church was enough.

REFLECTIONS, *continued from Page 7*

which the legal protection of human life is accompanied by profound care for mothers and their children. We exhort our nation to prioritize the well-being of women, children, and families with both material resources and personal accompaniment so that no woman ever feels forced to choose between her future and the life of her child.”

Those words were appropriately strong and timely, but in the final analysis, they're just words.

It's time for the Church to act in a more substantive manner with the full support of the Holy See.

Politicians and celebrities are not only creating a public scandal with support for abortion but also endangering

their souls and profaning the sacredness of receiving Holy Communion. They should strongly consider their reception of the sacraments.

The same should be true for any person who willfully rejects the Church's teaching on the right to life, which the bishops call the preeminent issue in this country.

Isn't that drastic and judgmental, you might ask? When it comes to the political realm, the issue becomes the ability to set policies on human life that affect billions of people.

Why abortion and not gun control or immigration or a host of other issues? Abortion directly violates the right to life for unborn children who have no

voice or no means to “choose” their fate.

Locally, protecting the unborn doesn't seem to concern a Columbus City Council women's caucus, which proposed on Friday, July 22 at a news conference more than \$1 million to investigate wonderful pregnancy resource centers that help women and their children every day and to support abortion-facilitating organizations such as Planned Parenthood, the Ohio Women's Alliance and the Abortion Fund of Ohio.

Sadly, that's not all. The group proposed that the city essentially ignore any complaints related to violations of the state's abortion restrictions or to enforce the law.

The mayor, city council president and abortion advocates attended the news conference outside City Hall apparently to show their support.

The Columbus Dispatch did not include any reaction from pro-life groups or individuals on the proposal as the newspaper continued its unbalanced reporting on the issue.

It's perfectly within your rights as a Catholic or an American to disagree. That's what makes this country great.

But, it must be said, a so-called “right” to abortion is simply an injustice when an unborn baby has no rights.

As has been stated repeatedly in this space, if Catholics in public positions are allowed to act in ways that directly contradict Church teaching in important issues, what kind of message does that send to the world about Catholicism?

That we're tolerant people? Or that we really stand for nothing?

It's sending a message that Catholics don't practice what they preach. And that has nothing to do with whether you're Democrat or Republican, liberal or conservative, traditional or progressive, young or old.

There's so much talk about Church membership declining and Mass attendance plummeting. Some observers think that's because the Catholic Church needs to relax its teaching on issues such as abortion and artificial contraception and adapt to the evolving modern culture.

Maybe, though, a return to an era when Catholics boldly proclaim what they believe and refuse to sway every time the societal winds change might have a positive impact. After all, up until the latter part of the last century, significantly more Catholics went to Mass, were open to having children and supported the Church's moral and spiritual direction.

Let's continue to thank God for the gift of life and the victories we've seen this summer, and pray for kindness, authentic evangelization, compassion for mothers in crisis pregnancies, the conversion of unbelievers and for pregnancy resource centers that need our support more than ever.

POSITION AVAILABLE - CATECHETICAL ASSISTANT

St. Michael the Archangel, Worthington, OH

The St. Michael the Archangel Parish is looking for a qualified candidate as a Catechetical Assistant to assist the Pastor, the Coordinator of Youth Catechesis, and Coordinator of Adult Faith Formation. This person will have the responsibility for assisting the Pastoral Catechetical Team in planning and executing programs and events for the parish/school for youth and adults as needed. This collaboration will work towards mission advancement within Saint Michael's parish and school aligned with the mission of the parish, especially the “Our Faith, Our Mission” parish initiative and the Diocesan “Real Presence, Real Future” initiative.

It is preferred that the ideal candidate have a BA in Catholic Religious Education/Catholic Theology or equivalent, or adequate experience in Catholic catechetical work. This will be a Fulltime/Hourly position with benefits offered according to the Diocesan Employment policy. Compensation will be commensurate with the candidate's education and experience.

A job offer will be contingent on the successful completion of the Diocesan Safe Environment Policy, including a mandatory background screening, completion of the VIRTUS “Protecting God's Children” training program and reference checks.

Applicants may send their cover letter, resume and list of references to:

Fr. Anthony A. Dinovo, Jr.
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5750 N High Street, Worthington, OH 43085
or email adinovo@saintmichael-cd.org

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POSITION AVAILABLE - COORDINATOR OF PARISH YOUTH CATECHESIS

St. Michael the Archangel, Worthington, OH

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It is preferred that the ideal candidate have a BA or MA in Catholic Religious Education/Catholic Theology or equivalent. This will be a Fulltime/Salaried position with benefits offered according to the Diocesan Employment policy. Compensation will be commensurate with the candidate's education and experience.

A job offer will be contingent on the successful completion of the Diocesan Safe Environment Policy, including a mandatory background screening, completion of the VIRTUS “Protecting God's Children” training program and reference checks.

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POSITION AVAILABLE - COORDINATOR OF ADULT FAITH FORMATION

St. Michael the Archangel, Worthington, OH

The St. Michael the Archangel Parish is looking for a qualified candidate as a Coordinator of Parish Adult Faith Formation to assist the Pastor and the Pastoral Catechetical Team in providing leadership in the design and implementation of educational experiences for adults and establishes a parish climate that nurtures the development of mature Christian faith within the adult community. This will include the oversight and implementation the Parish RCIA program. This collaboration will lead to a personal encounter with Christ and equip participants to be missionary disciples. The Coordinator of Adult Faith Formation will work in collaboration with the Pastoral Catechetical Team to work towards mission advancement within Saint Michael's parish and school aligned with the mission of the parish especially the “Our Faith, Our Mission” parish initiative and the Diocesan “Real Presence, Real Future” initiative.

It is preferred that the ideal candidate have a BA or MA in Catholic Religious Education/Catholic Theology or equivalent. This will be a Fulltime/Salaried position with benefits offered according to the Diocesan Employment policy. Compensation will be commensurate with the candidate's education and experience.

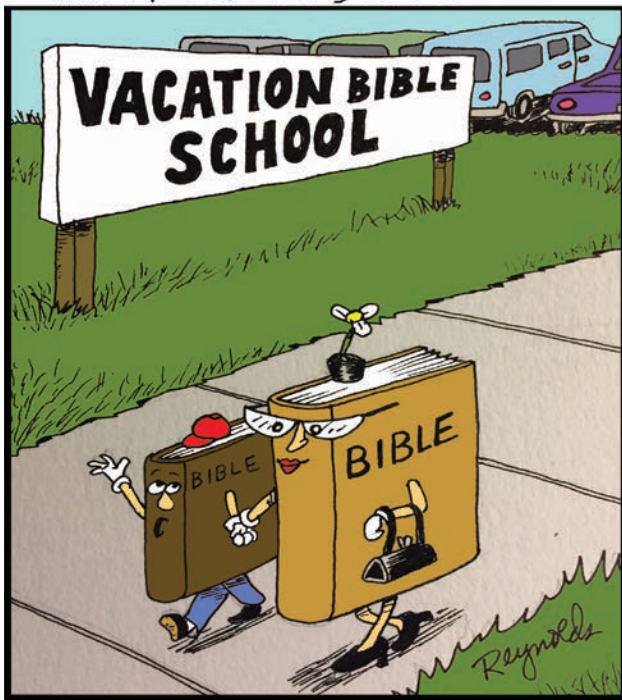
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VBS at Immaculate Conception

"But, Mom, how can it be a vacation when you're taking me to school?"



DIVINE COMEDY

If your parish is interested in inviting Deacon Dan to do his "Divine Comedy" presentation, contact him at divinecomedydan@gmail.com. "Divine Comedy" is full of clean jokes, saintly humorous examples and hysterical religious cartoons. It is about how our faith life is enriched by daily humor. You will learn how God loves you, yesterday, today, and "ever-laughter."



Children participate in Vacation Bible School activities in the gym and outdoors at Columbus Immaculate Conception School. This year's theme was "Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor." VBS was held July 18-22 and was open to ages four through students entering fifth grade. Photos courtesy Immaculate Conception Church



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'Thank God for our senior priests!'

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

The retired priests of the Diocese of Columbus no longer must perform the daily responsibilities of a pastor, but most still serve the Church and say that no longer dealing with daily pastoral duties has benefited their spiritual growth.

"I don't know where our diocese would be, or any diocese for that matter, without the tireless and dedicated work and ministry of our senior priests," said Father Michael Lumpe, diocesan vicar for senior and infirm priests. "There needs to be a collective shout from the rooftops: 'Thank God for our senior priests!'"

The retirees include two priests who have served as bishop of Columbus – Bishop Emeritus James Griffin and Bishop Emeritus Frederick Campbell.

Bishop Griffin, 88, was shepherd of the Diocese of Columbus for 21 years and has been retired for nearly as long. He has lived in a condo in Powell for the 18 years since his retirement as bishop for health reasons in 2004. He thinks that early retirement is the best thing he could have done for himself.

"I'm feeling very, very good these days," he said. "I had my knees replaced after retiring, and it's been a great boon to my health. When I retired, especially on days when I had to do confirmations, I was taking Tylenol all the time because the pain in my knees was intense. The knee operations changed all that.

"I kept a busy schedule through most of my retirement until COVID hit in mid-March of 2020. I dropped back then because everything closed down and because my siblings and I had a history of lung problems, so I felt I had to be careful."

Before COVID, Bishop Griffin served as a weekend associate priest at Powell St. Joan of Arc Church and played golf often. "I no longer go to St. Joan of Arc every weekend, but I will still celebrate Mass in a church on occasion if a priest finds himself in tight conditions," he said.

"I continue to go to all the diocesan clergy gatherings, including priests' funerals, and sometimes hear confessions at penance services.

"As far as golf, the best way to put things is that I go to the golf course (one is adjacent to his home) more than I play golf. I have an altar at home, so I still say Mass every day. One advantage is that I don't have to prepare a daily homily.

"What I appreciate most about retirement is the freedom from the pressures a bishop faces. As a bishop, my activities were scheduled from day into night. I was able to do great things and enjoy them, but it's been nice to ask, 'What do I want to do today?' and not already know the answer," Bishop Griffin said.

"Old age has been a gift from God



Bishop Emeritus Frederick Campbell (left) greets Bishop Earl Fernandes during the ordination and installation Mass on May 31 at Westerville St. Paul Church.



Father Richard Metzger

CT file photo

because of how it's allowed me to look back and appreciate what I've done, to live in the present and enjoy the opportunities of each day and to look forward to the joy of returning to God. At my age, death is a constant thought. I feel ready for it, and when I get up every morning, the first thing I do is say, 'God, thank you for this day.'"

Bishop Campbell, who turns 79 on Aug. 5, succeeded Bishop Griffin and led the diocese from 2005-2019. He lives in retirement in northeast Franklin County.

He has been teaching at the Pontifical College Josephinum since his retirement. He originally taught one course on preaching homilies and one on American history and now is teaching two American history classes – one on the nation in general and the other on the Catholic Church's role in the United States.

"Returning to the Josephinum has been a very good experience," he said. "What's especially interesting is that I taught American history there in 1967 while I was a graduate student at Ohio State, and now I'm teaching the same course today, but with the last 60 years of history added.

"My students today look at the Vietnam War and Watergate as things of the past, and these were things I lived



Bishop Emeritus James Griffin (left) welcomes Bishop Earl Fernandes at the ordination and installation Mass.

CT photos by Ken Snow



Father Homer Blubaugh

CT file photo

through. For each generation, history ends where your own story begins. For me, history ended with the close of World War II, which occurred when I was an infant in Elmira, New York."

Besides teaching, Bishop Campbell continues the weekly "Living the Catholic Life" radio talks he began on St. Gabriel Radio in Columbus and southern Ohio while he was the diocese's spiritual leader, and he helps out at parishes as needed. In July and August 2019, he traveled to the four parishes in the Perry County Consortium as weekend associate when Father Daniel Swartz, who had been parochial vicar there, began service as a military chaplain.

He also did "a lot of 'bishop work'" in the period between the departure of his successor, Bishop Robert Brennan, in late November of last year and the installation of Bishop Earl Fernandes on May 31. This included the celebration of the annual diocesan Chrism Mass and of Holy Week services and the ordination of Deacon Peter Claver Kassa Kiviiri, all at St. Joseph Cathedral. Bishops Brennan, Campbell and Griffin served as co-consecrators at Bishop Fernandes' installation.

"I'm not idle by any means, but it certainly is nice having a schedule that's

much more flexible than what I had as bishop," Bishop Campbell said. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to do more study and reading and to be available to fill the kind of needs that always arise in parishes when something unexpected happens."

"People tell me I'm not retired, and I understand why they feel that way," said Father Homer Blubaugh, 78, who retired in 2012. "Retirement started out slowly, but it seems like I've been busy for most of the last six years."

He said he has driven about 30,000 miles a year during that time from his Danville home, primarily serving parishes there and in Sunbury, Millersburg, Glenmont, Coshocton and Newcomerstown, and occasionally in Franklin County. He was called to help at those places because of priests' deaths, illnesses, retirements and COVID.

"Most of what I've done these last few years has been away from my home parish, Danville St. Luke," he said. "One major thing I did complete for St. Luke's was an updating of the parish history book for its 200th anniversary. I also enjoy the chance to attend the lunches which the retired diocesan priests have once a month on Thursdays at various Columbus restaurants."

Father Richard Metzger, 81, lives in Reynoldsburg, where he is recuperating after breaking his hip in February. Until then, he had been celebrating Masses at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X Church for the past several years since retiring in 2016.

He said he chose to live in Reynoldsburg because of its proximity to Mount Carmel East Hospital and its physicians and because St. Pius was not a parish where he had been pastor.

"If I were to go back to somewhere I had been, it would be harder to leave there because of all the people you get to know at a place," he said. "There's also the possibility that people compare you and the current pastor, and that can be difficult for both of you.

"It's great to be in charge of your own schedule, but sometimes it seems like the reason you retire is so you can be sure to make it to all your doctor's appointments. It's hard to do, but you have to recognize your abilities and your energy are more limited at 60 than they were at 40, and even more so at 75 when compared to 60.

"The priests who are now around 60 will be surprised how their health situation is going to adjust their lives. You can deny things up to a point, but eventually the time comes when you can't deny much because reality has overtaken things."

Father Metzger said that until recently, the availability resulting from his retirement allowed him to preside at

Living in rectory offers convenience, chance to serve

By Doug Bean
Catholic Times Editor

Like most folks when they decide to step away from full-time work, priests face a decision on where they're going to live.

Some choose to move to private residences. Some decide to live in a parish rectory. Others with health challenges might need to go to a place that offers assisted living.

Wherever they end up, though, these faithful men who have served the Catholic Church for most of their adult lives never stop being priests. To a man, they remain willing to continue that service as long as they can, whether it's filling in at parishes to celebrate Masses, hearing confessions, visiting nursing homes, anointing the sick or doing whatever is needed.

The convenience of living in a parish rectory can be attractive to some of these older, or senior, priests. Calling them retired priests is a bit of a misnomer based on their activity.

While they're no longer pastors or assistant pastors responsible for the daily operation of a parish, many of them keep plenty busy, particularly as the Church deals with a shortage of priests.

RETIRED PRIESTS, continued from Page 10

about 20 funerals per year, mainly of former parishioners, to hear confessions at penance services and to perform the sacrament of anointing of the sick.

"People know my phone number and where I live, and they do search me out," he said. "I've always been glad to help when I can but have to step back for now."

Father Metzger is one of four brothers and a cousin who became priests of the Columbus diocese. Two of the brothers and the cousin are deceased. The other brother, Father Stephen Metzger, lives near the family's home in Perry County.

Also serving at Reynoldsburg St. Pius X is Msgr. Patrick Gaughan, 79, a priest of the Diocese of Steubenville for 54 years, who was pastor of St. Paul Church in Athens and chaplain at Ohio University from 1985 until his retirement in 2013. He decided to make his retirement home in the Columbus area because several relatives live there.

He echoed his fellow priests in saying, "My biggest surprise upon retirement was the lack of stress. You don't realize the stress you take on when you're dealing with all the administrative duties of a parish until you don't have to do it anymore."

"I got here to Reynoldsburg and wondered, 'What do I do now?'" Msgr. Dave Funk (former St. Pius X pastor) and Father Dave Young (his successor) welcomed me warmly because St. Pius, as



Father Thomas Kessler
CT file photo by Ken Snow

Fathers Thomas Kessler, James Walter and David E. Young are among a handful of priests in the diocese who have chosen to reside in rectories and help at the parish where they live and at other churches.

"I like being present," Father Kessler said. "I like being around and available."

When Father Kessler "retired" in 2018 as pastor of Lancaster St. Bernadette and Bremen St. Mary churches, he needed living quarters with first-floor

access because of some physical difficulties.

Father Dan Dury, then the pastor at Columbus St. Catharine Church, invited Father Kessler to come there and use a first-floor suite in the rectory. Father Dury graciously offered to move himself to the second floor to accommodate Father Kessler, who accepted the invitation and has remained there since then.

Father Matthew Morris is now the pastor at St. Catharine. Ironically, Father Kessler received Father Morris' access because of some physical difficulties.

"Notice that I am not the vicar for 'retired priests,' I am the vicar for 'senior and infirm priests,'" he said. "I believe there is a misconception or misunderstanding when the word 'retired' is applied to the priesthood."

"A Catholic priest never retires from being a priest – a priest may retire from his assigned office as pastor of a parish, or from assigned duties at a seminary or in the Tribunal – but a priest never retires from his vocation as a priest. One does not retire from Holy Orders."

"The scope of their ministerial duties may change, their living arrangements may change, but through the sacrament of Holy Orders they remain priests – senior priests."

Father Lumpe notes that at some point in a senior priest's life he might no longer be able to celebrate Mass or administer the sacraments or drive a car, or his needs might be so great that he can no longer live on his own or in a rectory.

"Beginning with Bishop Griffin and carried on with his successors, the diocese is committed to seeing to the needs of her retired priests with assisted living at the Villas at St. Therese, and skilled nursing at Mother Angeline McCrory Manor.

"With the support of the people of God through the Bishop's Annual Appeal and through donations to The Catholic Foundation, the diocese is able to take care of her senior priests as a way of saying 'thank you' for their years of



Father James Walter
CT file photo by Ken Snow

dad into the Church as a convert to the faith while serving as pastor at St. Bernadette.

"I have a lot of arthritis in my knees, and I determined I've got to live someplace where there are either elevators or limited number of steps," Father Kessler said. "Father Dury was just very hospitable and was really going out of his way to move upstairs because of my mobility issues, and I appreciated very much the sacrifice."

Father Kessler, a former Catholic Times editor, celebrates Mass several times a week and on Sundays at St. Catharine Church, hears confessions and has been a spiritual director to seminarians at the Pontifical College Josephinum. Occasionally, he will celebrate Masses at other parishes.

At St. Catharine, he spends at least three hours a week in the confessional, which he noted is much more frequent than when he was ordained 48 years ago.

"That's a surprisingly new phenomenon," he said. "When I was a new priest in 1974, we would be in the confessional for half an hour or 45 minutes every Saturday. And the numbers plummet-

See SERVE, Page 13

faithful and dedicated service.

"Because of their years of experience in parish and pastoral ministry, Catholic education, pastoral planning and finances, canon law, outreach programs and all things Church, our senior priests also provide a wealth of information and sage advice and counsel to the priests of the diocese.

"Why would anyone want to reinvent the wheel, or waste valuable time and precious resources, knowing that we have an army of seasoned senior priests who have 'been there, done that' and who are more than happy to share their vast array of knowledge and experience?"

"I learned a long time ago not to be afraid to ask questions and to seek advice and counsel from those who walked in the shoes that I had been asked to wear," Father Lumpe said. "One should never walk the road unaccompanied by those who have walked the road before, no matter what that road may be."

"When I look at the great number of active senior priests in our diocese, some of whom have health and other issues that they don't let get in the way because of their desire to serve Jesus Christ, His Church and His people, these priests take to heart the words from the Rite of Ordination of Priests: 'Carry out the ministry of Christ the Priest with constant joy and genuine love, attending not to your own concerns but to those of Jesus Christ.'"

Retired priests enjoy less hectic life at Villas

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

Priests who live at the Villas at St. Therese in Columbus say they're grateful for the opportunity to continue to work for God and the Church in a stable, faith-based atmosphere at the residential community, a ministry of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm.

"After spending 20 years as a chaplain in the Navy moving from place to place, this has become home to me," said Father Frank Stanton, a priest for 64 years, who has lived at the Villas since moving there in 2008 to help care for his brother, the late Father Joseph Stanton.

"I had no intention of coming here after I retired from active ministry, but one thing led to another, and after Joe died in 2010, I decided this was where I wanted to stay."

"Living at the Villas is one way retirement allows me to continue all the good and fun stuff about being a priest, like celebrating Mass and hearing confessions, without having to deal with the administrative responsibilities of being a pastor," said Father Stan Benecki, a priest for 38 years and a resident of the Villas since July 2018.

Father Benecki said he celebrates Mass four or five times a month at Gahanna St. Matthew Church and also has helped at Columbus St. Mary Magdalene (where he was pastor before retirement), Groveport St. Mary, Columbus Ss. Augustine & Gabriel, Columbus St. Stephen the Martyr, Columbus St. Aloysius, Columbus St. James the Less and Columbus Christ the King churches since moving to the Villas.

Because he has a conversational knowledge of French, he says Mass in that language at Christ the King for members of the area's Congolese Catholic community and has taken lessons to better understand the language.

"It's great to be able to help other parishes by saying Mass elsewhere," Father Benecki said. "And it's easy because the sacristan usually has set up everything in advance, and all I have to do is celebrate Mass, turn off the lights, clean up and lock the door."

"When I lived at St. Mary Magdalene, I was rattling around in a rectory built for six priests and things were far away from each other," he said. "Here the dimensions are much more comfortable. For instance, my apartment is much closer to the laundry room here than it was elsewhere, and that's important because I have mobility issues. And there's always a staff member available if I need help. I'm not alone as I would be in a rectory."

Father Michael Nimocks, a priest since being ordained at age 54 in 1996



Father Michael Nimocks
CT photo by Ken Snow

and a resident of the Villas since June 2013, helps out on weekends at Columbus Holy Spirit and St. Philip churches and also has said Mass at Groveport St. Mary, Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Newark St. Francis de Sales and Grove City Our Lady of Perpetual Help churches, as well as Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in his former hometown of Buckeye Lake, where he was fire chief before discerning his vocation to the priesthood.

"I'm going to be saying Mass anyway, so I might as well help out if I'm needed," he said. "I'm happy to go wherever I'm called."

Msgr. Frank Meagher also lives at the Villas. Father Jerome Stluka lives next door at the Mother Angeline McCrory skilled nursing facility.

Health reasons prevent Father Stanton from celebrating Mass elsewhere, but he and Fathers Benecki and Nimocks concelebrate Mass each Wednesday morning at the Villas. Masses there on Thursdays through Sundays are celebrated by Father Michael Lumpe, who recently was appointed chaplain of both the Villas and McCrory Manor and is diocesan vicar for senior and infirm priests. There is a communion service at the Villas on Mondays and Tuesdays.

The Villas opened in 1999, and McCrory Manor, named for the founder of the Carmelite sisters who operate the facility, followed in 2005. The Carmelites have served senior citizens in Columbus since 1948, when they came to the city to operate St. Raphael's and St. Rita's homes for the aged, which were closed once the newer facilities opened.

The Villas are divided into areas for people who can live independently and for those needing assistance with everyday tasks. The four priests at the facility all have apartments in the independent living area.

When the onset of COVID shut down



Father Frank Stanton
CT photo by Ken Snow

most aspects of everyday life in mid-March 2020, including the public celebration of Masses, it had a significant impact on those in assisted living because they were prevented from going outside their rooms, while those living independently could move around the building. Once visitors were allowed into the assisted living area, continuing restrictions required them for many months to remain behind a plexiglass shield when talking with residents.

"That was a difficult time for the priests here, because we're used to helping people, and we couldn't do very much of that," Father Nimocks said. "When restrictions on Mass started easing after Pentecost Sunday (May 31) in 2020, everyone was happy to have Sunday and later daily Masses resume."

"Most people didn't have a problem with the sanitation effects related to hand washing and wearing of masks which the diocese and state required. The biggest adjustment was no longer receiving from the chalice during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. I don't know if that ever will come back."

"We all missed having people come from outside during the time in the early stages of COVID when no visitors were allowed," Father Benecki said. "People still have to check in when they arrive here."

"All this restriction was understandable because no one at the beginning knew what COVID was or how it was transmitted," Father Nimocks said. "Things have eased up now, but there's always a sense of caution."

"It didn't take me to long to get cabin fever after COVID started," Father Stanton said. "I don't go out as much as the other priests here but missed going to a niece's house for big family dinners. I haven't been back there since things started closing down. And I missed being able to say Mass for the 2 1/2 months when we couldn't."

At one time, there were as many as 10 priests living in either the independent or assisted living areas of the Villas, and Mass was celebrated there every morning. The Mass schedule was reduced because several of those priests have died.

Like their counterparts elsewhere in the diocese, the priests at the Villas say they're glad to no longer be handling the administrative aspects of pastoral life.

"Sitting at a desk and dealing with bills isn't what you're thinking of when you're discerning the priesthood," Father Nimocks said. "You're ordained so you can be with people and help with their spiritual needs. I don't think Our Lord sat down and had big planning meetings with the Apostles, but then, they were right there with Him anyway."

"It's great not dealing with paperwork and no longer being the boss and having the buck stop with you, but you do miss the daily relationships with people and things such as parish festivals or baptisms and confirmations that are big events for individual families and the parish family," Father Benecki said.

"But I've found a new circle of friends here and had a chance to get to know them for the long term as I see them every day."

Father Nimocks said he began planning to move to the Villas two years in advance of his retirement. He had sold his Buckeye Lake home to fulfill the requirement of being debt-free while studying for the priesthood, so he knew he would be looking for a place to live after retiring. Even with the early planning, he had to live elsewhere for a year until a spot at the Villas opened up.

"I really like it here because you're on East Broad Street and just off Interstate 270, but you don't hear the traffic," he said. "You're in your own world, where you see deer and turkeys roaming around, and you have a feeling of peace."

Father Benecki was more fortunate than Father Nimocks in finding living space at the Villas. He learned of an opening six months before retirement so began paying for his apartment a half-year before becoming a resident. "I knew I'd eventually need to live in a facility where assistance would be available, so it was nice to come to a place like this," he said.

"It's well-kept and nicely appointed, with a friendly staff and residents who mostly are very sociable. One big advantage is that all the rooms open into a corridor of the building rather than to the outside, so you run into other residents more often. There's also always somebody at the front desk to receive packages, and that's important for security. Plus, you're close to Mount Carmel East Hospital, and the presence of the sisters and of all sorts of other reminders that you're in a Catholic facility are comforting."

Even after retirement, priest vows to stay active in parish life

By Father Patrick Toner

They always say, "Age is just a number," but that is not true. "Age" is a word.

I am aware of the number attached to my age. As I approach 79 and have to think about retirement, I have started to look at all the options.

Most of the priests I know who retired have gotten healthier. Age 70 usually comes at around 40 years of priesthood. They have benefited from a lack of stress and having time to take care of themselves. I celebrated 47 years as a priest last May.

The Real Presence Real Future plan for Columbus St. Mary Magdalene parish includes a religious order replacing me. Sometime in the future, I will get a call from Bishop Earl Fernandes thanking me and wishing me well in my retirement.

Like many of my brother priests, I will be on the confession circuit, helping with Masses, funerals, etc. I will continue with prison ministry at Franklin Medical Center. Columbus St. Aloysius Church has several outreach ministries to the poor and homeless that I will get more involved with.

When I first retired at 72 from St. Jo-

SERVE, continued from Page 11

seph Church in Plain City, I started working with Food for the Poor. I missed parish ministry and asked Bishop Frederick Campbell for a job. When I told him I wanted to be a pastor again, he gave me St. Aloysius, St. Mary Magdalene and Columbus St. Agnes parishes. Parish ministry is still where my heart is, and I will find ways to stay active.

Bishop Campbell assigned Father Brett Garland as parochial vicar. We shared residence at St. Mary Magdalene. It was different sharing a house with another priest. Most of my priesthood was living alone.

I managed the offices at all three parishes, visiting each daily and collecting mail and phone messages. Father Garland worked out of St. Agnes with the Hispanic population. I adjusted the Mass schedule so we could rotate among all three parishes. I picked up

and Bremen St. Mary for four years as pastor, and then at St. Joseph as pastor for 13 years until his recent retirement. In addition to his duties at the parish, he made regular nursing home and hospital visits and for 10 years has served as a chaplain for the Children of Mary religious sisters in Licking County.

He had come to Lancaster at age 69 after 11-plus years at Sunbury St. John Neumann, where he was pastor when a new church was built there for the rapidly growing parish. Eventually moving to a smaller parish community in Sugar Grove, where at age 73 he replaced Msgr. James Geiger, proved to be a good fit.

"I needed a smaller parish that I could really handle in my advanced years," he said. "It worked out."

Father Walter will continue to help at the parish while living in the rectory at Lancaster St. Mark Church, where Father Peter Gideon is pastor and now administrator of the Sugar Grove church.

"In retirement, I see three things," Father Walter said. "One would be it's an opportunity to be able to spend more time visiting relatives, nieces, nephews, cousins and so forth.

"And then secondly, to have some time for self-improvement. I love to read, I love to write and I even would appreciate more prayer time.

"And thirdly, to actually spend some time with families in the parish or those

enough Spanish to celebrate the Spanish Masses.

After Father Garland was reassigned to Delaware St. Mary Church, St. Agnes was assigned to the Missionary Servants of the Word at St. Stephen parish. I had to adjust Mass schedules again so I could cover all the Masses myself.

Typically, I celebrate all four weekend liturgies, the Saturday morning Mass and devotions, and the Saturday evening prison Mass. I had started two devotional programs at St. Aloysius, a Holy Hour for the Dying and Friday Stations and Benediction each week.

St. Mary Magdalene had the practice of the Miraculous Medal Novena before the Monday 8:15 a.m. and 7 p.m. Masses. Monday morning was changed to Monday Mornings with Mary and Her Son, a holy hour including rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction. With both parishes aging, there have been a lot of funerals, hospital visits and anointings.

Trying to address concerns in three parishes has been difficult. I have always found that taking care of those things that are special to the congregation results in people answering the call to serve. I have been blessed with the opportunity to care for two beautiful church buildings and congregations

with a lot of love for their parishes.

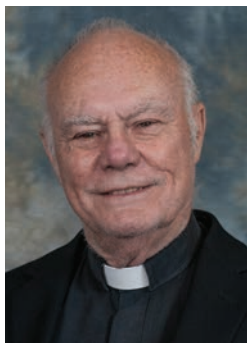
The highlights of my second time around would include:

- The two years I worked with Food for the Poor.
- The two years with Father Garland, newly ordained, a breath of fresh air and renewal.
- The Prison Ministry at Franklin Medical Center, a favorite work of mercy.
- The Community Outreach Ministry at St. Aloysius.
- The five years back on the west side of Columbus.

I graduated from the grade school at St. Aloysius, was ordained at St. Agnes and for more than 20 years celebrated Masses and confessions on a weekly basis at Columbus Bishop Ready High School.

The west side is home, and I will stay close and still be involved in all the parishes here. I will even reprise an old favorite of mine, "Have Fork/Will Travel." There might even be some traveling in the plans.

Father Patrick Toner is the pastor at Columbus St. Aloysius, St. Agnes and St. Mary Magdalene churches. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Columbus in 1975.



Father Patrick Toner
CT file photo

confinement to nursing homes or hospitals. So often in the busy routine of parishes it's, sadly, easy to neglect some of those sorts of things because you just can't quite get the time to do it.

"And so, to build deeper friendships and then listening to parishioners with a greater frequency or intensity. You can do more to maybe give them a little guidance, help them and encourage them just by the fact you can listen a little bit longer and appreciate their needs and so forth."

Blessed with good health and a family lineage that includes three cousins in their 90s, Father Walter is thankful for the blessing he has received in the priesthood and plans to keep going as long as he can.

"It's all in God's holy plan," he said.

Father Young, 75, also ended up in a smaller parish at Zaleski St. Sylvester in Vinton County, where he relocated five years ago after stepping away from full-time ministry into so-called retirement.

Zaleski, a village of about 300 people in the southern part of the diocese, wasn't exactly where Father Young expected to land, but he learned through other priests that the rectory there was unoccupied.

"I was at a meeting with other priests in December before retirement, and one of them said, 'Where are you going to go?' And I said, 'I don't know right now,'" Father Young said. "I said, 'I can

live in a tent.'"

He recalled passing through Zaleski only once before. Later, though, he found out that some ancestors had lived there and are buried there.

"I needed a place to go, and so I told Bishop (Frederick) Campbell that's where I'll stay," Father Young said.

His schedule at St. Sylvester, which attracts a considerable number of guests who are visiting Zaleski State Forest or nearby campsites, includes a Wednesday daily Mass and a Sunday Mass, and hearing confessions and leading devotional prayers.

St. Sylvester is part of the Jackson-Vinton Consortium with Wellston Ss. Peter & Paul and Jackson Holy Trinity parishes, and he fills in at those churches when called upon. He also travels to Chillicothe once a month as the chaplain for the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Heart.

"I need to keep moving and keep my mind going," Father Young. "And I love meeting new people. We get people from out of town at Mass and people from the other parishes.

"It's really very quiet here, and I'm pretty much left alone. I meet the townspeople in the post office and talk with them a little bit, and they know who I am."

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

What lasts? What God values

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23
Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17
Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
Luke 12:13-21

Our generation of humanity might someday be known for one “heresy” in particular: the mistaken belief that we know better than any other generation that has come before us.

Ancient Greek tragedies highlighted the drama caused by *hubris*, that is, the self-destructive pride of the hero. Achilles’ heel, the blindness of Oedipus and the self-aggrandizing bravado of so many leaders led to the downfall of empires and the victories of enemies. We fall into the same trap when we buy the lie of our that we must listen only to the “spirit of the age” to find what is “true.”

Qoheleth, presented in the image of the wise King Solomon, offers the antidote to this heresy: acknowledgment of “vanity.” All that is, everything we experience in this life is a puff of smoke, a chasing after of the wind. Acknowledging this, we can discover what truly endures.

Jesus, asked to settle a dispute about the share of an “inheritance,” tells the parable of the rich man with a bountiful harvest. Death comes for this man who has built up a treasury of earthly goods. His life is demanded of him. He is chided: “... and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?”

When we think of success only in worldly terms, we are forgetting the bigger picture. God has a plan of relationship for all that includes time and eternity. Our life is a search for the meaning of this relationship.

The effort to discern the truth has seemingly disappeared in our time. Qoheleth provides a model worth imitating. He reviews every human experience. He looks to what has happened to him and to what others have discovered as the consequences of their actions.

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Wisdom 18:6-9
Psalm 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22
Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19
Luke 12:32-48

“Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.”

God takes the initiative in our relationship with Him. Nothing we do can influence outcomes, as if we were “bargaining with God” by the actions we perform. Yet, God does make promises to us, and He does expect a response on our part.

Leaders ought to open their hearts to God’s guidance. This does not always

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Father Timothy Hayes

Father Timothy M. Hayes is pastor of Chillicothe St. Mary and St. Peter; and Waverly, St. Mary, Queen of the Missions.



The truth reveals itself when we strip away non-essentials. When truth is discovered, then a solid foundation reveals what will last. In the Gospel, Jesus points to what lasts: the treasure of “*what matters to God.*” To find and become rich in this treasure, we must set our sights on what God values.

St. Paul tells us that we are destined for glory and that we will find the truth of ourselves in Christ, not in what we might find here below. This is a radical claim. “*If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*”

He offers us a promise that of something beyond what earth can give us: “*When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.*”

The Responsorial Psalm invites us to listen for the voice of God. “*If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*”

This voice will speak to us if we are willing to listen. First, it calls us to realize that “what is below” does not satisfy. When we experience the limitations of the world around us, we are beginning to hear the invitation to seek something more, something higher. Then, the voice of God calls us to choose not to stay wrapped in the self-understanding that this world has presented to us.

When we decide to put relationship with God in the first place, we become free to see the world for what it is. All our experiences of earthly things are “vanity.” But there is a promise of glory that speaks to our hearts.

offer a full understanding of His plan. Instead, it offers a vision and a step or two that move God’s people toward the fulfillment of the plan.

The Book of Wisdom presents the experience of Passover as such a step. In relationship to God, the people who have put their faith in the promises of God receive courage to face whatever happens. They wait for salvation and find glory in their relationship with God. They enter into Passover and cooperate with what God is doing for them as a people by putting into effect the provisions God has established. This is the divine institution

THE WEEKDAY BIBLE READINGS

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 8/1-8/6 | FRIDAY | Matthew 18:1-5,10,12-14 |
| MONDAY | Nahum 2:1,3:3:1-3,6-7 Deuteronomy 32:35c-36b,39abcd,41 (Ps) Matthew 16:24-28 | WEDNESDAY |
| Jeremiah 28:1-17 Psalm 119:29,43,79-80,95,102 Matthew 14:13-21 | SATURDAY | 2 Corinthians 9:6-10 Psalm 112:1-2,5-9 John 12:24-26 |
| TUESDAY | Daniel 7:9-10,13-14 Psalm 97:1-2,5-6,9 2 Peter 1:16-19 Luke 9:28b-36 | THURSDAY |
| Jeremiah 30:1-2,12-15,18-22 Psalm 102:16-23,29 Matthew 14:22-36 or 15:1-2,10-14 | 8/8-8/13 | Ezekiel 12:1-12 Psalm 78:56-59,61-62 Matthew 18:21—19:1 |
| WEDNESDAY | MONDAY | FRIDAY |
| Jeremiah 31:1-7 Jeremiah 31:10-12b,13 (Ps) Matthew 15:21-28 | Ezekiel 1:2-5,24-28c Psalm 148:1-2,11-14 Matthew 17:22-27 | Ezekiel 16:1-15, 59-63 Isaiah 12:2-3,4bcd,5-6 (Ps) Matthew 19:3-12 |
| THURSDAY | TUESDAY | SATURDAY |
| Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:12-15,18-19 Matthew 16:13-23 | Ezekiel 2:8—3:4 Psalm 119:14,24,72,103,111,131 | Ezekiel 18:1-10,13b,30-32 Psalm 51:12-15,18-19 Matthew 19:13-15 |

DIOCESAN WEEKLY RADIO AND TELEVISION

MASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS OF JULY 31 AND AUG. 7, 2022

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| SUNDAY MASS 10:30 a.m. Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org . | p.m., and midnight). | (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com . 12:05 p.m. weekdays, 8 a.m. Saturdays, Mass from Columbus St. Joseph Cathedral on St. Gabriel Radio (AM 820), Columbus, and at www.stgabrielradio.com and diocesan website, www.columbuscatholic.org . (Saturdays on radio only). |
| 10:30 a.m. Mass from Portsmouth St. Mary Church on St. Gabriel Radio (FM 88.3), Portsmouth. | Mass from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee at 6:30 a.m. on ION TV (AT&T U-verse Channel 195, Dish Network Channel 250, or DirecTV Channel 305). | Videos of Masses are available at any time on the internet at these and many other parish websites: Mattingly Settlement St. Mary (www.stannismary.org); Columbus St. Patrick (www.stpatrickcolumbus.org); Delaware St. Mary (www.delawarestmary.org); Sunbury St. John Neumann (www.saintjohnsunbury.org); and Columbus Immaculate Conception (www.iccols.org). Check your parish website for additional information. |
| Mass with the Passionist Fathers at 7:30 a.m. on WWHO-TV (the CW), Channel 53, Columbus and 10:30 a.m. on WHIZ-TV, Channel 18, Zanesville. Mass from St. Francis de Sales Seminary, Milwaukee, at 10 a.m. on WWHO-TV. Check local cable system for cable channel listing. | Mass from Massillon St. Mary Church at 10:30 a.m. on WILB radio (AM 1060, FM 94.5 and 89.5), Canton, heard in Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Coshocton counties. | St. Ann (www.stannismary.org); Delaware St. Mary (www.delawarestmary.org); Sunbury St. John Neumann (www.saintjohnsunbury.org); and Columbus Immaculate Conception (www.iccols.org). Check your parish website for additional information. |
| Mass from Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, Birmingham, Ala., at 8 a.m. on EWTN (Spectrum Channel 385, Insight Channel 382, or WOW Channel 378). (Encores at noon, 7 | DAILY MASS 8 a.m., Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Birmingham, Ala. (Encores at noon, 7 p.m. and midnight). See EWTN above; and on 1-Lifetv (Channel 113, Ada, Logan, Millersburg, Murray City, Washington C.H.; Channel 125, Marion, Newark, Newcomerstown and New Philadelphia; Channel 207, Zanesville); 8 p.m., St. Gabriel Radio | We pray Weeks IV and I of the Liturgy of the Hours. |

Jesus Christ presents a way of truth very different from the world. He acknowledges the goodness of the world as God’s creation. He embraces it. But He also accepts the limitations, always calling His disciples to build up a treasure that is beyond this world.

We are in the world, but we belong to something beyond the world. When we enter into a real relationship with Jesus, we are called into His way of living, and we discover the deepest truth: the hope of glory. “*If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*”

As believers, we must trust in God’s promise of salvation

that expressed the covenant relationship of the people of Israel with God.

The Letter to the Hebrews holds out Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Patriarchs, as examples of faith who have taken the steps they were meant to take but who did not experience fulfillment of the promises.

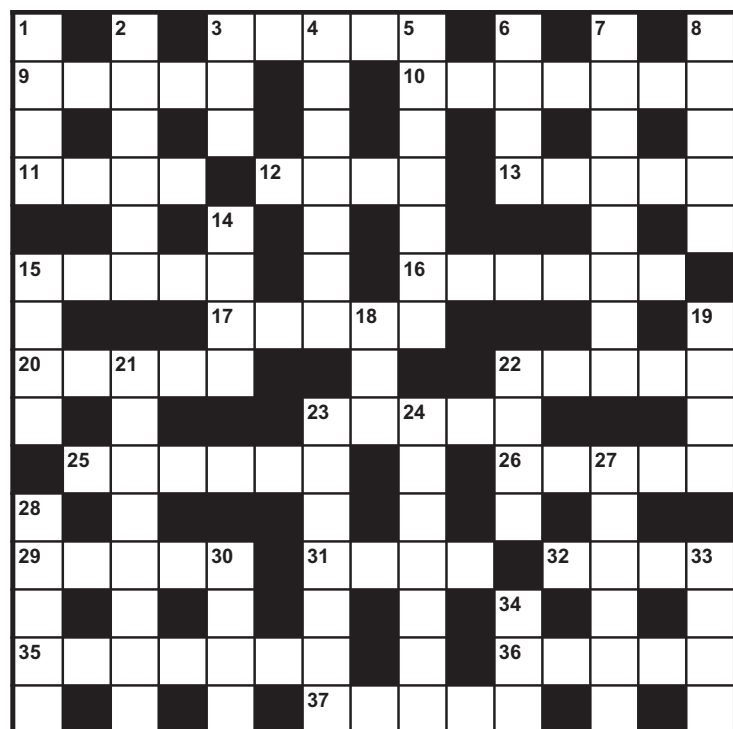
Faith is defined as “*the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.*” *Through faith, the Patriarchs, trusting in God’s promise, “saw it and greeted it from afar and acknowledged themselves to be strangers and aliens on earth, for those who speak thus show that*

they are seeking a homeland.”

Jesus proclaims the kingdom of God to His disciples, inviting them to open themselves to this gift by becoming empty and letting go of all attachments. He calls for an attitude of faith and hope, expectation of the fulfillment of God’s promises.

“*Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inex-*

CATHOLIC CROSSWORD



- | | |
|---|---|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 3 Stations of the _____ | 1 Brother of Cain |
| 9 The Church Militant is here | 2 Make a father of |
| 10 One of the prophets | 3 Abbr. for two OT books |
| 11 Goliath lost his | 4 Catholic author of A Good Man is Hard to Find |
| 12 Genuflection joint | 5 Commandment that tells us not to bear false witness |
| 13 Holy one | 6 People in Lystra called Barnabas this (Acts 14:12) |
| 15 Heavenly fare | 7 _____ of Hospitality |
| 16 Judas' silver count | 8 Biblical instrument |
| 17 Month of the feast of St. Patrick | 14 Holy _____ Society |
| 20 Free and undeserved gift of God | 15 The three kings |
| 22 Number of disciples who witnessed the Transfiguration (Lk 9:29-36) | 18 Agency headed by uncle of Cardinal Dulles |
| 23 Though Portuguese, Anthony is associated with this Italian city | 19 The Mass is both a sacrifice and a _____ |
| 25 Liturgical season | 21 The Eucharistic Prayer |
| 26 John Paul II's given name | 22 "_____ and eat; this is my body." (Mt 26:26) |
| 29 She tied a scarlet cord in her window | 23 Isaiah or Jeremiah |
| 31 Leader of the Church | 24 Sin against hope |
| 32 The woman wiped Jesus' feet with hers (Lk 7:38) | 27 Lector |
| 35 Catholic entertainer called "The Schnozoola" | 28 The Church is the _____ of Christ |
| 36 Satan wanted to sift the apostles like this (Lk 22:31) | 30 Catholic actor and crooner, Crosby |
| 37 9 AM prayer | 33 Book after Judges |
| | 34 Old Testament animal of sacrifice |

TRUST, continued from Page 14

haustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."

The delay of the fulfillment of God's promises was a challenge to the Patriarchs, but they lived out their lives in hopeful expectation. The disciples of Jesus knew the presence of the kingdom in their relationship with Jesus Himself, the fulfillment of the kingdom and the Presence of the living God. Yet even they had to discover the mystery that in time there is a paradox: "the already but not yet" reality of the kingdom.

As disciples, we are called to know and to acknowledge the promises of God. We are promised a homeland, a progeny and a possession of the kingdom in its fulness. Knowing this, we are to be at work proclaiming the kingdom, inviting others to a living relationship with God.

Jesus adds another promise to those disciples who prove themselves faithful in times of ambiguity: "Truly, I say to you, the master will put the

servant in charge of all his property." He offers a warning to those disciples who fail to keep the promise in view, turning to satisfy their own desires in a worldly way. The Master "will punish the servant severely and assign him a place with the unfaithful."

In response to Peter's question as to whether the parable is addressed to others or to the disciples as well, Jesus makes it clear that those who are blessed to be among the "little flock" have a greater charge for understanding what it means to live in the kingdom. "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more."

We live in a time that calls into question eternity and the promise of life with God after the earthly sojourn. If our faith does not transform us who claim to believe, we might lose what we have received. May we come to see and respond to the gift that is offered to the "little flock."

Full-time Parish Administrative Assistant

Ss. Simon & Jude Parish, West Jefferson
 Estimated salary \$28.5k - \$35.9k a year / Benefits
 M-F with some evenings and weekends

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

The Parish Administrator serves as a staff resource in support of the pastor, fulfilling administrative needs regarding personnel responsibilities of the parish and contributing through the work of "Real Presence, Real Future" in evangelization of the Gospel within the parish.

This person should be an active member of a Roman Catholic Parish and will be responsible for the general operations of the church, parish staff, facilities/property management. They are a human resources liaison and communication director using new advanced technology.

To apply, send a cover letter and resume to Father Dwayne McNew, pastor, at Dwaynecnew702@yahoo.com. Questions may be directed to the parish office at 614-879-8562.

Words of Wisdom

by Pat Battaglia, aka Dr. Fun

Draw a path from letter to letter to spell the capitalized words to complete the wisdom statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

Don't wait for the hearse ...



TO GET YOU TO CHURCH

SS. AUGUSTINE & GABRIEL CHURCH WELCOMES VISITORS, NEW MEMBERS

Are you looking for a small, friendly parish? Somewhere where everybody knows your name? The Parish Outreach Committee at Columbus Ss. Augustine and Gabriel Church, 1550 E. Hudson St., invites you to visit our church and meet us. We're a unique parish made up of growing families and longtime parishioners.

Mass schedule: 4:30 p.m. Saturday Vigil (English); 10 a.m. Sunday (English); noon Sunday (Vietnamese); 9 a.m. Tuesday through Friday (English).

Questions? Call Sue at 614-581-2203 or Nicole at 614-406-2775.

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PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

ASLANO, Norma (DiPietro), 94, formerly of Columbus, July 2

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Mill Valley, Calif.

BARROW, Charles R., 68, July 6

Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

BELLISARI, Raymond D., 84, July 11

St. Andrew Church, Columbus

BROWN, William F., 65, July 14

St. Christopher Church, Columbus

BUCHANAN, Nancy R., 92, July 17

St. Leonard Church, Heath

BURNS, Patrick B., 65, July 9

Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

DEIBEL, Donald, 86, July 20

St. Agnes Church, Columbus

EPIFANO, Rosaline J., 93, July 19

St. Rose of Lima Church, New Lexington

GRILLI, Cecilia L. (Fannin), 73, July 12

Our Mother of Sorrows Chapel, Columbus

HARWICK, David P., 82, July 3

St. Cecilia Church, Columbus

HILLEGASS, Marilyn "Bonnie" (Moore), 76, July 10

Our Lady of Peace Church, Columbus

SERVE, continued from Page 13

Geographically, Vinton County is large but quite poor. Every Thursday, the St. Francis Evangelization Center, located nine miles away in McArthur, comes to the parish to distribute food.

"I try to be out there to see people," Father Young said.

"It's a good situation here, and I'm glad to be here. I don't know where I'm going to end up, but I'll be here as long as I possibly can."

Father Young welcomes the slower pace of a smaller town that affords him time for personal prayer and reflection. He recites the rosary in the afternoons in church and prays the Liturgy of the Hours at his residence.

"I certainly have a better prayer life than I did before," he said. "I reflect on my life and my priesthood and look at the things that I perhaps have done wrong and pray the Lord will make good what I did."

"Above all, I want to do the right things, be a good example. It's one of the things I think about a lot."

"I remember the old priests that I knew so many years ago and how I was so attracted to them. It was not so much what they said but what they did. I mean, there's an old Latin expression

HIRN, Margaret, 98, July 17

St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Columbus

KLEPATZKI SR., Ronald William, 82, July 8

Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Glenmont

LAKOVIC, Luciano, 81, June 30

St. Joseph Church, Plain City

MEYER, William H., 95, July 17

St. Matthew Church, Gahanna

MORIARTY, Michael E., 83, July 14

St. Catharine Church, Columbus

PRYOR, Joann M. (Harland), 84, July 16

St. Brendan Church, Hilliard

RANO, Donna L. (Laurienzo), 89, July 16

St. Paul Church, Westerville

SCHWEMER, Betty A., July 6

Immaculate Conception Church, Kenton

SCOTT, Carolyn A., 62, of Columbus, July 11

St. James the Greater Church, Cincinnati

STITH, Monica L., 73, July 16

St. Dominic Church, Columbus

TORRANCE, James D., 58, of Westerville, July 5

Holy Family Church, Inverness, Ill.

TROMBETTI, Agnes (Bell), 88, July 10

St. Agatha Church, Columbus

that says, 'Sounds make noise, but example thunders.' I always remember that."

All three priests are enjoying this stage of their lives and feel blessed to continue to minister while taking time to attend to their own spiritual and personal needs.

"It's parallel to being a grandparent," Father Walter said. "I see priestly retirement more as spiritual grandfatherhood, where grandparents spend a little more time with grandkids and with friends because the younger generation is too busy trying to earn a living and keep the house going. So, it's a different momentum, a different pace."

Father Kessler offered a similar observation.

"You don't retire from the priesthood," Father Kessler said. "You don't retire from being a husband or father, but it does take on different activities and a gentler flow of activities."

"I'm not the beloved grandfather because I've only known these people in the parish for a few years. But I can act as a spiritual director to a few laypeople, and that's been a pleasure, and to be available as a priest and not just as an administrator."

Father Paul Rubadue, OSB

Funeral Mass for Father Paul Rubadue, OSB, 87, who died Thursday, July 21, was celebrated Monday, July 25, in the basilica at St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Burial was in the archabbey's cemetery.

He was born on July 29, 1934 in Columbus to Charles and Mildred (Downin) Rubadue.

He graduated from Columbus Holy Family High School in 1952 and received a Bachelor's degree in history, Spanish and music from Spalding College in Louisville, Kentucky in 1964, a Master of Music degree in voice from the Catholic University of America in 1969 and a Master of Divinity degree from St. Vincent Seminary. He also studied at the University of Louisville and the University of Madrid.

He entered the religious life as a Xaverian brother in 1952, making his

Laura Gardner

Funeral Mass for Laura Gardner, 29, who died Saturday, July 9, was celebrated Wednesday, July 13 at Columbus St. Catharine Church. Burial was at Holy Trinity Cemetery, Somerset.

She was born on May 23, 1993 to Jeff and Mary (Luchtenberg) Gardner.

She was a 2011 graduate of Bexley High School and graduated magna cum laude with a degree in music education from Ohio State University in 2015.

In high school, she played the cello in the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Bexley Sinfonia and sang in the Bexley Women's Chorale and Vocal Ensemble, performing with the latter group at Carnegie Hall. At Ohio State, she sang in the university's

Mary E. Ruetty

Funeral Mass for Mary E. Ruetty, 89, who died Tuesday July 12, was celebrated Tuesday, July 19 at Columbus Christ the King Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery, Columbus.

She was a 1954 graduate of St. Mary of the Springs College (now Ohio Dominican University) and went to work for Catholic Social Services (CSS) immediately upon graduation.

Linda L. Talmadge

Funeral Mass for Linda L. Talmadge, 78, who died Wednesday, June 22, was celebrated Saturday, July 23 at Columbus Our Lady of Peace Church.

She was born in Atlanta on Oct. 24, 1943 to the late Howard and Mildred (Moye) Talmadge and was raised in New Orleans. She graduated from the Sophie Newcomb College of Tulane University in New Orleans, earned a Master's degree at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana and did additional graduate work at

simple profession of vows on March 19, 1955. He taught in Brooklyn, New York; Louisville; and Leonardtown, Maryland.

He transferred his vows to the Benedictine monastery at St. Vincent in 1981 and was ordained to the priesthood on May 31, 1986, by Bishop William Connare of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, at the archabbey after serving as a deacon at Our Lady, Queen of Peace Parish in Pittsburgh. At St. Vincent, he conducted choir workshops on the pastoral level, was a soloist at many functions and directed a small chamber music group known as a camerata. He also did parish work at St. Benedict Church in Baltimore, Maryland and at Holy Family Church in Latrobe.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Joseph. He is survived by nieces and nephews.

women's glee club and played in its symphony orchestra.

She was orchestra director at Heritage Middle School in Newark for the 2021-22 school year after serving for five years as director of orchestras in the Zanesville School District.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandmother, Patty Luchtenberg, and paternal grandparents Howard and Patty Gardner. Survivors include her parents; brothers, Father Tom Gardner, pastor of Coshocton Sacred Heart Church; and Billy (Maura); sisters, Amy (Rommy) Miller and Julie (Charles) Holbrook; maternal grandfather, Dick Luchtenberg; nieces, a nephew, and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

She held a number of positions with CSS during the next 50 years, including vice president of administration for the Holy Rosary Family Center, clinical supervisor and social worker. After retiring from CSS, she was a volunteer for the Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs (JOIN). She received Ohio Dominican's distinguished alumni award in 2014.

Ohio State University.

She was the librarian at Our Lady of Peace School in the 1990's and retired from the Ohio State University Libraries in 2008. She also served in lay ministry roles at her parish, the Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center and the Wesley Glen retirement community in Columbus.

Survivors include her husband, Bob Kalal; daughter, Fran (Alexander Law) Kalal, and a grandson.

Devoted 'Catholic Times' reader Peter Broeckel dies

By Tim Puet
For *The Catholic Times*

Peter G. Broeckel, 79, died on Saturday, July 9 at the Country View of Sunbury Nursing Center. His funeral Mass was on Thursday, July 14 at Columbus Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church.

His death ended decades of phone conversations between Peter and members of *The Catholic Times* editorial staff. He called me about a story I'd written soon after the *Times* hired me in late 2006, and I talked to him hundreds of times in the next 16 years.

Peter, himself a former reporter, was perhaps the newspaper's most devoted reader. A few days after nearly every edition of the *Times* arrived, he would call me to comment about several aspects of that issue's content – usually with praise, occasionally with criticism. He also would often ask if I could find out whether a certain person was related to someone on the paper's obituary list so he could send that person a note of encouragement and sympathy.

This was something I was always glad to do, for Peter was an engaging conversationalist, especially on matters relating to the Catholic Church and sports – Notre Dame football in particular. He lived in Columbus for most of his life after growing up in New Jersey. He never lost his East Coast accent, and I knew as soon as I heard his gravelly tones and his greeting of "Hey, Scoop!" that I would be in for a delightful discussion.

Peter was born with cerebral palsy and had to use a wheelchair throughout his life, but it never affected his spirit. As his obituary in *The Columbus Dispatch* put it, "He would always provide you with a positive perspective or approach, and at the end of ever interaction you knew how much he cared about people."

He was born on Sept. 16, 1942 in Jersey City, New Jersey, the first of two children of Henry and Marie (Drummond) Broeckel. His sister, Jane Campbell of Pawleys Island, South Carolina, said "Peter's love of sports came from his parents, who were very athletic. They always encouraged him to do what he could

with what he had, and that helped him adapt to his situation."

Growing up in New Jersey, he became a fan of that area's "home teams" – the Brooklyn (later Los Angeles) Dodgers, the New York football Giants and the New York Rangers of the National Hockey League. One of the pictures displayed at his wake service showed Peter in a wheelchair meeting Hall of Fame catcher Roy Campanella of the Dodgers in 1952. Campanella himself would end up spending most of his life in a wheelchair, as a result of injuries from an auto accident in 1958.

Peter rooted for Notre Dame because of its Catholic heritage and because his childhood coincided with one of the university's most successful football eras, during which the Fighting Irish went 63-8-6 under coach Frank Leahy from 1946-53 and won three national championships. Peter's love for Notre Dame as an honorary alumnus and a self-proclaimed football scout was probably second only to his love for his wife, Mary, and their three sons and one daughter.

Over the years, he got to see several Notre Dame home games, and he was a regular at events sponsored by the Notre Dame Club of Columbus, including a Christmas Mass, New Year's events and an annual banquet, said club member Warren Wright.

He also traveled extensively. "He and Mary had friends all over the place, and they'd go anywhere on a dime," his sister said. Places he visited included Michigan, Virginia and Connecticut to see family members, and Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, where he went on pilgrimages to a Marian shrine. "He had many friends there, and they'd come here often to see him," she said.

Peter also was a member of Knights of Columbus Council 11188 and attended the Columbus Catholic Men's Conference on several occasions.

After graduating from Snyder High School in Jersey City, Peter went to work as an administrator for the American Chiclé Co., which made chewing gum and was a division of the Warner-Lambert pharmaceutical company.

His sister was employed in the company laboratory.

He also wrote feature stories for the Morristown, New Jersey, *Daily Record*. One of his earliest stories, displayed at his wake, was about ice skater Peggy Fleming, with whom he maintained a correspondence for several years.

Peter was a prolific letter writer, who in this high-tech era preferred the "old school" communications methods of letters and phone calls. His oldest son, Mark, said he sent about 10 letters per day to friends, celebrities and people he read about who were facing some sort of difficulty, always with a self-addressed stamped envelope included for return correspondence.

"He was always optimistic, with the type of can-do spirit where he felt nothing was beyond him even in his situation. He'd write people because he wanted to pass on that feeling and hoped his experiences could help others," his sister said.

His letters also led him to the love of his life, Mary (Ritchey), who was a bookkeeper at St. Joseph Cemetery in Columbus when the two began corresponding through a pen-pal list in a Catholic publication. Their youngest son, Joseph, said the friendship turned into a year or two of courtship, Peter flew to Columbus once or twice, and he and Mary were wed in 1975. The marriage lasted for 28 years, until Mary's death in 2003.

They were the parents of four children – Mark (Brook) of Portage, Michigan; Maria of Columbus; Daniel (Jenny) of Westerville; and Joseph (Kelly) of Lancaster – and had eight grandchildren.

"What I think attracted them was the potential of what they saw, the realization of what they could be together as opposed to individually," Mark Broeckel said. "He was a very engaged father, always looking for opportunities in which he could help us develop athletically and academically."

He lived in southeast Columbus and was a member of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church from the time of his marriage until his health required him to move to Country View for care in 2017. He often told me that what he

missed most about not living at home was the opportunity to receive the Eucharist weekly during visits by Deacon Steve Venturini of his parish.

At his wake service, Deacon Venturini said, "Peter was open with what he believed and not afraid to talk about it and ask questions. I once told him, 'You ought to be the pope.' Most communion calls take about 10 minutes, but with Peter, I could count on spending a half-hour, and that was good for both of us because it would help us connect. We saw each other as representing the Church in our own ways."

Appropriately, along with a display of pictures of Peter, his wife and family at the funeral home, there was a stack of self-addressed stamped envelopes and this note:

"Before you go, do me a huge favor and grab a stamped envelope.

"There is someone that needs to hear from you and I want to help you make that happen.

"Put pen to paper in the next week and drop it in the mail. You will not regret it.

"Thanks,
"Peter"

That message was intended for those attending his wake, but I'm sure Peter would ask *Catholic Times* readers to do the same.

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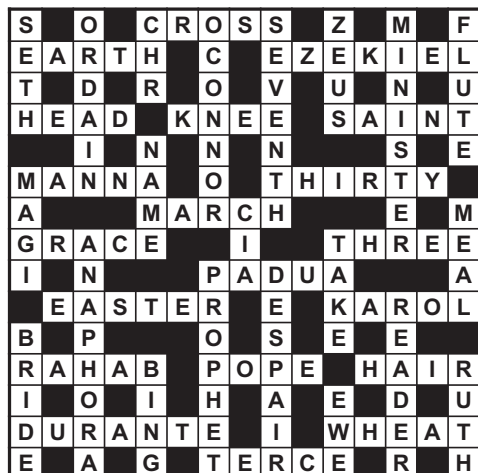
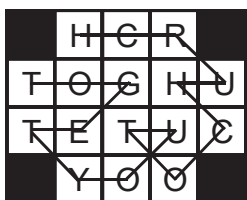
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Collection shows solidarity with Church in Latin America

By Sister Zephрина Mary Gracykuty, FIH
Director, Diocesan Missions Office

During the weekend of Aug. 6-7, parishes throughout the Diocese of Columbus will take up a collection for the Church in Latin America. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) invites you to help our brothers and sisters in the Catholic Church of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In 2021, the diocese contributed \$50,817.64 to the collection. I thank you for your generous contributions on behalf of Bishop Earl Fernandes and the USCCB committee in charge of the collection. This yearly collection strengthens connections between the Church in the United States and the Church in Latin America.

Through this contribution, Catholics from across the United States have supported the formation of priests and religious, the training of catechists and other pastoral ministers, the education of children and young people and relief efforts in the wake of natural disasters.

The funds help to accomplish spiritual programs such as evangelization among non-Christians, the urban poor and minorities; raises mission awareness; and promotes vocations and work toward justice and peace.

Last year, Pope Francis joined virtually with Latin America Church leaders in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. The pontiff said, “We have much to learn, this is a meeting of the people of God: lay men and women, religious men and women, priests, bishops. All the people of God walking together: praying, speaking, thinking, discussing, and seeking the will of God.” (Vatican news, Jan. 24, 2021).

The pope urged the Church leaders to focus on one theme: “We are all missionary disciples on the move.” His zeal and love empowered by the Church can show God’s love to a world in need of change and renewal.

The Church in Latin America Collection supports pastoral work and other spiritual programs there. In Haiti, for instance, the Diocese of Jacmel formed

more than 600 youths from its 31 parishes in reading, praying and living the Gospel over the course of a 21-day program.

This same spirit of outreach was also at work across Haiti during the COVID-19 outbreak when the Haitian Episcopal Conference initiated a communication and pastoral ministry formation campaign to inform people, especially those in remote or marginalized areas, about the nature of the coronavirus pandemic and how to stop its spread.

This collection is a tremendous opportunity for all the faithful to participate actively in the evangelization mission and ministries of the Church. Your gifts and prayers will be a great blessing for the poor and needy who benefit from this outreach of funds.

Pope Benedict XVI addressed the Fifth General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean: “To you, who represent the Church in Latin America, today I symbolically entrust my encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, in which I sought to point out to everyone the es-

sence of the Christian message.

“The Church considers herself the disciple and missionary of this Love: missionary only insofar as she is a disciple, capable of being attracted constantly and with renewed wonder by the God who has loved us and who loves us first. (cf. 1 John 4:10)

The collection for the Church in Latin America provides a solid expression of solidarity with our brothers and sisters throughout this hemisphere. This expression is a visible sign of faith and hope on our path to communion with God.

For many living in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain and a shortage of ministers make it difficult for people to practice the faith. Your donations would take care of the evangelization programs of these regions.

Please prayerfully consider supporting this collection to share your faith with our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, pray for us!

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Bishop urges generosity in collection for Latin America

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops designates one collection every year to help the Church in Latin America. In the Diocese of Columbus, the collection will be taken the weekend of Aug. 6-7. Our generosity is a tangible demonstration of our solidarity with the Church across our hemisphere.

Help is very much needed to strengthen the faith of the people and to train pastoral leaders to take care of the flock. Please be generous toward this collection. Take this opportunity to share your faith with our sisters and brothers in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The collection supports catechesis, formation, evangelization and other pastoral programs, which are designed to strengthen and to renew the faith of the people in the region.

These funds enable our fellow Catholics in Latin America and the Caribbean – who are rich in faith but often lack material resources – to participate more fully as disciples and to respond to their call to mission.

This collection has been a concrete countenance of unity and solidarity between Catholics in the United States and those in Latin America and the Caribbean.

I invite you to give generously, and your support truly makes a difference. I am most grateful for your loving response to God’s call to build His kingdom on earth.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes,
Bishop of Columbus

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Mount Carmel East celebrates 50th anniversary

Mount Carmel East Hospital in Columbus is 50 years old this year. Located on 77 acres in far eastern Franklin County, the hospital opened on April 17, 1972 as the first hospital in the Mount Carmel Health network, the only Catholic hospital network in the Diocese of Columbus.

Mount Carmel Health's history dates to 1886, when the Sisters of the Holy Cross opened the original Mount Carmel Hospital in Columbus. An emergency care center at that location continues to serve the people of the city's west side.

Mount Carmel Health now consists of four hospitals – Mount Carmel East, Mount Carmel Grove City, Mount Carmel St. Ann's and Mount Carmel New Albany – and a variety of other facilities.

The land where Mount Carmel East is located served as a farm growing food for the original hospital from 1908 until the 1960s. Expansions to Mount Carmel East occurred in 1993, 2003 and 2019. It now includes the Bruce E. Siegel Center for Health Education, a dedicated health center and maternity center, and a new patient tower and surgical suite. The 381-bed hospital is the largest hospital on Columbus' east side.

A 50th anniversary Mass was celebrated in the hospital chapel on Wednesday, July 13, with Father Michael Lumpe, diocesan coordinator for hospital ministry and vicar for senior and infirm priests, delivering the following homily:

"It is both a joy and an honor for all of us to gather on this day when we celebrate the 50th anniversary of this hospital – five decades of bringing hope, healing and comfort to those who enter through her doors.

"On behalf of Bishop (Earl) Fernandes, I bring his greetings and blessings. Scheduling being what it is so early in his episcopacy, the bishop could not be here today for this occasion. I also bring greetings and blessings from our former bishop, Bishop (Robert) Brennan, who at one time had a chaplain ID badge for Mount Carmel.

"True story: One Sunday afternoon, Bishop Brennan called and asked if he could join with me in making patient rounds here at Mount Carmel East. So, we met here, and we split up the patient census. Since he did not yet have his ID badge, he took the green and silver areas, and I took the blue and purple areas.

"He walked into a patient room and introduced himself, saying: 'Good afternoon. I'm Bishop Brennan, and I'm making sacramental visits to Catholic patients.' To which the patient replied: 'Yeah, and I'm the pope.' So the bishop lowered his facemask, and the patient was a bit startled, and somewhat embarrassed, that indeed Bishop Brennan was in fact here to give him the sacrament of anointing of the sick. Both of them had a good laugh about the situation.

"A few years ago, I brought Bishop (Frederick) Campbell here to administer the 'last rites' to one of our priests who was dying. When Bishop Campbell finished giving the last rites, a nurse rushed in saying that a patient a few doors down also needed the last rites. Without skipping a beat, Bishop Campbell said, 'Let's go,' and off he went to administer the last rites while I stayed with the family of the priest he had just anointed.

"Folks, back at the turn of the last century, on this very land where we celebrate Mass today, the Holy Cross Sisters began a farm here to grow fruits and vegetables and other necessities to help feed their patients at the former Mount Carmel West Hospital, the foundation of today's Mount Carmel Health System.

"Looking around this chapel today, I believe I am the only person who can remember, as a child, when Mount Carmel East Hospital was being built in what seemed to be the middle of nowhere, back in 1972. I-270 was still under construction, and the interchange at East Broad Street would not open until three years later, in 1975.

"The nearest Catholic structure to this hospital back in 1972 was St. Therese's Shrine and Retreat Center on East Broad Street, which, at that time, was also in what we would call 'the country.' Back then, Hamilton Road appeared to be the edge of the city.

"The only other major facility out this way was the former Bell Labs research facility and the Western Electric manufacturing plant where telephones were being made. This huge facility would go through various owners and purposes over time, ultimately becoming the administrative offices of Mount Carmel Health and the Mount Carmel Foundation.

"But here we are, 50 years later, celebrating the anniversary of this wonderful hospital and all who have contributed to its mission and success, serving a metropolitan area and a population that has grown exponentially since 1972.

"Folks, in today's Gospel, Jesus Christ gives thanks to God the Father in heaven for revealing to His disciples the wisdom and knowledge of God. His prayer also contains a warning that pride can keep us from the love and knowledge of God. So, one might ask: 'What makes us ignorant and blind to the things of God our Father?'

"Certainly intellectual pride, coldness of heart and stubbornness of will – all of these can shut out God and His kingdom from our minds and hearts. Pride is, after all, the root of all vice and the strongest influence propelling each of us to sin. It first vanquishes the heart, making us cold and indifferent toward God.

"Pride also closes the mind to God's truth and wisdom for our lives. And

what is pride? It is the inordinate love of oneself at the expense of others and the exaggerated estimation of one's own learning and importance.

"But notice how Jesus contrasts intellectual pride with childlike simplicity and humility. The simple of heart are 'childlike' – not childish – but childlike in the sense that they see purely without pretense and acknowledge their dependence and trust in the One who is greater, wiser and more trustworthy. They seek one thing – the 'summum bonum' or 'greatest good' who is God himself.

"Simplicity of heart is wedded with humility, the queen of virtues, because humility inclines the heart toward grace and truth. Just as pride is the root of every sin and evil, so humility is the only soil in which the grace of God can take root. It alone takes the right attitude before God and allows Him, as God, to do all. God opposes the proud, but to the humble He showers them with grace.

"When you look at the mission and 50-year history of this wonderful hospital, constructed to bring the gift of life, health and healing, comfort and hope, we can easily see God's grace at work, day-in and day-out, for 50 years.

"Being rooted in the Catholic faith, here at Mount Carmel, health care is seen and carried out as a ministry – a vocation to serve the needs of those who are ill and who seek hope, healing and comfort. For just as Christ came to serve, not to be served, we, too, are called to serve in imitation of Jesus Christ as His faithful disciples.

"This ministry, this vocation of service to those in need, cannot authentically take place without adopting and fully embracing the mindset of humble service in imitation of Jesus Christ our Lord, Savior and Redeemer.

"There is a familiar hymn Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service, which brings to mind the mission and ministry and work of all here at Mount Carmel East Hospital – one of dedicated, humble service to all who come here for hope and healing.

"The greatest asset of this hospital is her people – trained, yes, in their varied professions – but endowed, first, with the variety of gifts, talents and abilities by God our Father, each called to participate in one way or another, in one form or another, in imitating Jesus Christ in service to others in this hospital setting.

"Let us not forget the scores of men and women who have received their training here – doctors, nurses and so many others in their various fields, along with seminarians from the Pontifical College Josephinum who, as future priests, come here for pastoral ministry training to learn and experience how to minister to men and women in the hospital setting.

"The first and fourth verses of this

hymn are as follows:

"Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked Your mercy's perfect deed:
we, Your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to Your purpose
ev'ry gift which You impart.

"Called from worship into service
Forth in Your great name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged,
Love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, good will and comfort,

Counsel, aid, and peace we give
That Your children, Lord, in freedom,
May Your mercy know and live.

"Today let us remember and pray for those who dedicated their lives in humble service on this hospital campus during the last 50 years – both medical professionals and non-medical professionals alike, including an army of dedicated volunteers. And may we pray today, also, for the men and women who continue to build upon the foundational work and ministry of this hospital and who are dedicated to providing the best in patient-centered care, following in the servant footsteps of Jesus Christ.

"Let us also pray a prayer of thanksgiving for all who have come here as patients since her doors first opened, along with their family members, friends and caregivers who provided them with prayer and support.

"And today, especially, may we turn in prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary. In just a few days, on July 16, we will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. On July 16, 1886, the original Hawkes Hospital of Mount Carmel was dedicated in honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel; that hospital would be later known as Mount Carmel West.

"Through her intercession, may the mission and ministry of Mount Carmel East Hospital continue for another 50 years, and certainly beyond, and may she watch over and protect every patient who comes here for hope, healing and comfort, and all of the Mount Carmel team members who provide these and more through their work and ministry both in the hospital setting and through the vast program of community outreach.

"O most beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist us in this necessity. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee.

"Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us.

"Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

"Mary, Health of the Sick, pray for us.

"Amen."

Local news and events

Bishop Fernandes to speak at Ohio Dominican convocation

Bishop Earl Fernandes will deliver the annual convocation address marking the beginning of the academic year at Ohio Dominican University on Saturday, Aug. 13.

The bishop will celebrate Mass at 2:30 p.m. at Christ the King Chapel in Sansbury Hall. The convocation event will follow at 4 p.m. on the Oval in front of Erskine Hall.

New students will sign the book of matriculation, which contains the names of students as they begin their education and is presented at their commencement. The afternoon's events will conclude with a free, picnic-style dinner on the Oval.

"Convocation is one of the university traditions that I most look forward to because it's all about new beginnings," said the university's president, Connie Gallaher.

"This is a special opportunity for members of our campus community to come together to welcome new Panthers, enjoy each other's company and get energized about all of the possibilities that

come with a new academic year."

Zoar parish hosts fireworks viewing

More than 650 people attended a viewing party hosted by Zoar Holy Trinity Church for a local fireworks celebration on Saturday, July 16.

Members of Knights of Columbus Council 13081 served hot dogs, bratwurst, popcorn and ice cream, with Slick 31, a local band, providing entertainment from 7 p.m. until the fireworks ended. The "Sparks of Giving" celebration was sponsored by Zoar View Investments and created by Samantha and Kyle Quillen.

Holy Trinity Church, which is on a hilltop, was one of several locations in the Bolivar-Zoar area that provided viewing areas and created activities related to the fireworks, with proceeds going to charity.

The church donated the money from its activities to the parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society.

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1. Renew Relationships with God Others

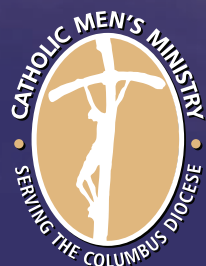
Bring the Bible when you travel. And bring the Sacred Heart image from the Men's Conference or a holy card to remind you of the love of God.

2. Find God in Beauty.

Explore nature from sunrises to sunsets.

3. Get to Your Roots.

Rediscover the foundation of where you came from so you can map where you are going.



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